How to Raise a Boring Girlfriend

2

Original Story
FUMIAKI MARUTO

Art
TAKESHI MORIKI

Character Design
KUREHITO MISAKI

How to Raise a Boring Girlfriend

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How to Raise a Boring Girlfriend

Original Story FUMIAKI MARUTO Art TAKESHI MORIKI
Character Design KUREHITO MISAKI

How to Raise a Boring Girlfriend

Volume Two

Presented by
Fumiaki Maruto &
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Character Design by
Kurehito Misaki

I...

KATOU
.....

!

きょ

KYOTON
(TILT)

HM?

THAT FACE AGAIN.

NEVER MIND.

KATOU ...

...I'LL WORK SOME-THING OUT...

...SO DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.

I'LL GET THEM TO AGREE TO THE PROJECT. YOU'LL SEE.

OH. OKAY.

GAKUUU (SLUMP)

YOU COULD BE JUST A BIT MORE SENSITIVE ABOUT MY AMBITIONS, Y'KNOW.

I DON'T REALLY CARE EITHER WAY.

CHAPTER 6

IF YOU DON'T MAKE KATOU-SAN TAKE THIS SERIOUSLY, THERE'S NO POINT...

HER WORDS WERE SHARP.

THEY HIT ME WHERE IT HURT...

SENPAI WAS EXACTLY RIGHT.

GORO

GORO

GORO (RUMBLE)

BUT ALL I CAN DO IS STAY THE COURSE...

...KEEP GOING AS ALWAYS...

SHAADDAAP!

KA (ROAR)

WHOA!

HEY.

...SO THE HEROINE IS A FLEDGLING IDOL, BUT...

I NEED ERIRI AND SENPAI'S TALENTS TO MAKE KATOU A HEROINE.

THE LAST VERSION WAS A MESS, BUT THEY HAVE TO SIGN OFF ON MY PRO-POSAL TODAY.

UM, HELLO?

KIIIN (RING)

ONCE AGAIN, THIS WAS AN ALMOST SPECTAC-ULARLY COMPLETE WASTE OF TIME!

I'M LEAV-ING!

PLEASE WAIT! THERE'S STILL A MOUNTAIN OF STUFF IN THE PROPOSAL I HAVEN'T EXPLAINED YET...!

AT THIS STAGE, YOUR MOUN-TAIN'S ALREADY CRUM-BLING!

HUUH !?

BUT MY DREAM DOESN'T END THERE ...

WHAT ABOUT THE CROSS MEDIA?

TOYS?

RARE CARDS?

IN-GAME PUR-CHASES ?

... GEEZ!

I THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE A BIT MORE DECENT THAN THE LAST PRESEN-TATION...

The heroine's attributes include her voice, dancing, looks, grace, determination, sex appeal, and morals, among many others.

The setting is a multi-dimensional fantasy world.

The heroine is a fledgling idol with her debut just around the corner.

The protagonist (the player) is a freelance cameraman-slash-manager.

...BUT THIS SCRAP OF PAPER IS JUST COVERED WITH SWIPED MASH-UPS OF OLD AND NEW RAISING SIMS!

WELL, THE LAST ONE WAS MOSTLY RIPPED OFF TOO.

I JUST CHANGED THE GENRE.

NOT ONLY IS THAT NOT ANY KIND OF EXCUSE AT ALL, IT'S AN ADMIS-SION OF FURTHER GUILT!

YOU WENT REALLY SYSTEMATIC THIS TIME, HM?

HMPH...!

WELL, YOU SAID YOU WERE BUSY WITH YOUR NEW SERIAL, SENPAI ...

...SO I TRIED TO LESSEN YOUR SCENARIO WORK-LOAD...

WELL, THIS WORTH-LESS MATERIAL IS HARDLY AN IMPROVE-MENT FROM BEFORE.

.....I FIGURED YOU MIGHT SAY THAT. GUESS MY CONSIDER-ATION WAS UNCALLED FOR.

THE LAST ONE FELT LIKE SOMETHING YOU GAVE UP ON AT TEN AT NIGHT.

THIS ONE FEELS LIKE YOU FIERCELY WRESTLED WITH IT UNTIL SEVEN A.M.

IT'S A TOTAL WRECK BECAUSE YOU THOUGHT IT UP IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT WHEN YOUR HEAD DOESN'T WORK RIGHT.

ACH!

GUH!

(JAB)

YOU'RE USING ME TO SATISFY YOUR SADISTIC DESIRES, AREN'T YOU...!?

SO, WHAT NOW, RINRI-KUN?

.....

...I'LL DO IT OVER AGAIN ...

...SO PLEASE REVIEW THE NEXT ONE.

IF YOU'RE TELLING ME THAT THIS IS THE PRODUCT OF YOU PUSHING YOURSELF TO THE POINT WHERE YOU COULDN'T WRING OUT ANOTHER DROP...

IF YOU'RE SAYING THAT YOU'VE LEFT EVERYTHING YOU HAD IN YOU ON THIS PAGE...

...THEN I'LL GIVE IT A CLOSER READ, ALL RIGHT?

I.....

I...HAVE TO SEE IT THROUGH TO THE END.....

DON'T BE CRUSHED.....

WELL, LET'S GIVE HIM ONE MORE CHANCE.

AFTER ALL, ONCE THE HOLIDAYS ARE OVER, YOU WON'T HAVE ANY EVENTS FOR A WHILE, RIGHT?

HANG ON A SEC!

YOU'RE STILL IN!?

I JUST HATE THE IDEA OF BEING FORCED TO TAKE PART IN THIS POINTLESS CRAP AND WASTING PRECIOUS HOURS OF MY LIFE!

IN OTHER WORDS, YOU'RE AFRAID OF RINRI-KUN TURNING YOUR LIFE UPSIDE-DOWN?

NO, I'M NOT! I MEAN, MY LIFE ISN'T SUCH A WRECK THAT AN IDIOT LIKE THIS CAN SEND IT OFF THE RAILS!

IT WASN'T ME WHO MADE FUN OF YOU. AIM YOUR BARBS AT HER!

UGH ...!

FINE, WHATEVER...

THE NEXT REALLY IS THE LAST TIME, OKAY!?

THERE WON'T BE ANOTHER, YOU HEAR?

YES. LEAVE IT TO ME.

IT'S OKAY.....

IT'S OKAY.....

...I'LL WRITE IT UP DURING THE HOLIDAYS, AND I'LL BRING IT IN THE FIRST DAY AFTER.

.....

SO WHEN IS THE DEADLINE FOR YOUR LAST CHANCE?

OH, AND, RINRI-KUN.

SO, I'LL SEE YOU AFTER THE HOLIDAYS, THEN

KACHA (CLACK)

WELL, THAT SEEMS REASON-ABLE.

YOU SHOULDN'T NEED MORE TIME THAN THAT.

OH, YEAH. COME TO THINK OF IT, SHE WASN'T HERE TODAY.

WHAT'S-HER-FACE.

AREN'T YOU GUYS SUPPOSED TO BE FRIENDS NOW?

WHERE IS SHE TODAY?

YOU KNOW. WHAT'S-HER-NAME.

TO HOKKAIDO.

AND HERE I THOUGHT THEY WERE FINALLY AWARE OF HER EXISTENCE ……

SHE SAID SHE WAS GOING ON A FAMILY TRIP FOR THE HOLIDAYS.

Are you in Sapporo? It sounds lively!

YEAH, THAT'S WHY I CAN'T HEAR YOU SO WELL.

SO WHEN'S THE DEAD-LINE?

Start of next week. After the break.

HUH? WHAT?

SORRY, I CAN'T HEAR YOU VERY WELL

I said yester-day's presen tation was a flop too ……

Oh, never mind.

Huh? That means .....

OH, I'LL BE FINE.

THE MAIN THING IS YOU HAVE FUN OVER THERE. THIS'LL PROBABLY BE YOUR LAST HOLIDAY WITH THE WHOLE FAMILY, WON'T IT?

It was all planned last year, right?

Your friend told me.

O-OH, YEAH. ANYWAY, SORRY.

YOU FEELING BAD WON'T HELP.

I DUG THIS HOLE FOR MYSELF YESTER-DAY.

Yeah, but still ...

Umm, are you really going to be okay?

!

Can you make the dead-line on your own?

WH-WHY ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT THIS STUFF ANYWAY?

PATHETIC .....

I'M SO PATHETIC.

...EVEN THOUGH WE'VE ONLY JUST MET, AND SHE'S GOT NO OBLIGATION TO GIVE A DAMN...

I GOT HER SO WORRIED ABOUT ME...

Well, I mean, Aki-kun ...

.....

AH-HA-HA! WELL, I GUESS YOU GOT ME THERE!

...EVEN IF YOU WERE HERE, WHAT COULD YOU DO?

AUGH ...

...ANY-WAY...

Aki-kun?

HM? WHAT IS IT?

BUT THE TYPICAL EASE THAT SHE ANSWERED WITH KINDA HURT...

MAYBE ...

!

SHIIN (S_ENT)

THIS MOMENT OF AWKWARD SILENCE IS PATHETIC TOO.

I'M THE ONE WHO MADE IT SO THAT'S ALL SHE COULD SAY.....

.....

I'D BETTER GET OFF THE PHONE!

I'VE GOT MY DEAD-LINE TO WORRY ABOUT TOO!

I DON'T WANNA BE ANY MORE DEPRESSED!

BEFORE I HEAR SOMETHING I DON'T WANT TO!

OH, OKAY...

BUT SOMEHOW, WHEN YOU HEAR THAT WORD, IT MAKES IT FEEL LIKE THINGS ARE REALLY MOVING AT LAST, HUH!?

No, this is the do or-die stage that decides if we even get off the ground.

AH-HA-HA! THAT IS TRUE!

I'M COUNTING ON YOU, AKI-KUN.

AH...

IT'S JUST LIKE I TOLD YOU AT THE SIGNING, RINRI-KUN.

IF YOU DON'T MAKE HER—

IF YOU DON'T MAKE KATOU-SAN TAKE THIS SERIOUSLY, THEN THERE'S NO POINT.

THERE'S SOMETHING YOU NEED TO DO BEFORE YOU CAN GET US ON BOARD, ISN'T THERE?

SOME-THING I NEED TO DO...?

BUT A LITTLE PASSION CAN COVER THAT UP, RIGHT?

SO YOU GET THAT. THAT'S PROOF YOU'RE A WRITER

THE THINGS SHE LACKS MOST ARE PERSONALITY AND MOTIVATION.

SHE'LL MAKE FOR A MEDIOCRE GAME CHARACTER.

.....

I DON'T HAVE THE TALENT OR THE PERVERSITY TO TURN A HEROINE WITHOUT A SPARK INTO ONE WHO'S RADIANT, OKAY?

AWW, SHE'S COUNTING ON ME .....

BUT SENPAI TOLD ME NOT TO LET KATOU DEPEND ON ME.

HER LACK OF MOTIVATION...

...IS MASKED BY HER RELENTLESSLY EASYGOING ATTITUDE.

HER NOT HAVING ANY KIND OF PRESENCE...

...IS 'COS SHE DOESN'T TRY TO HAVE ANY.

JUST GIVE HER A LITTLE TUG, AND SHE'LL DO WHATEVER YOU WANT. THAT'S EXACTLY WHY I FORGOT THAT SHE DOESN'T DO ANYTHING OF HER OWN WILL.

SHE GETS EASILY SUCKED INTO STUFF...

SHE'LL GO ALONG WITH WHATEVER ...

I LOVE 'EM, SO TWO BOXES, PLEASE.

OH, I'LL PAY YOU FOR THE EXTRA ONE.

GISHI (CREAK)

BUT IT'LL BE ALL RIGHT .....

Oh yeah. You wanted me to bring you back a box of butter sand, right?

SO I NEED TO JUST KEEP PULLING HER ALONG.

I PLANNED TO DO THIS WHOLE THING BY MYSELF IN THE FIRST PLACE, AND I KNOW THAT'S THE ONLY WAY I'M GONNA SUCCEED.

OH! SORRY, JUST ONE MORE THING.

Talk to you later, Katou.

...Um, well ...

Aki-kun...

?

WHAT IS IT?

AFTER ALL, THIS PROJECT WAS BORN FROM MY FEELINGS, NOBODY ELSE'S...

...FOR THE PURPOSE OF FULFILLING THE EMOTIONS THAT ARE MINE, AND MINE ALONE.

WHAT WOULD YOU SAY ARE MY..... GOOD POINTS ...?

……

…HUNH?

UH, WELL, YOU KNOW?

LIKE, TIMES WHEN YOU THOUGHT WE HAD FUN TOGETHER…

…OR THINGS YOU LIKE ABOUT ME…

…OR THINGS YOU DON'T LIKE, EVEN… STUFF LIKE THAT.

OH……

ARE YOU… MAYBE IN THE HOSPITAL?

LIKE… ARE YOU ABOUT TO HAVE MAJOR SURGERY THAT'S GOT A 20% CHANCE OF SUCCESS OR SOMETHING…?

Of course.

I'M HEALTHY AND OUT SIGHT-SEEING.

UH, NO, I'M NOT TELLING SUCH A DRAMATIC LIE.

GISHI (CREAK)

LEMME THINK ...

Yeah.

SO?

A LOT'S HAPPENED.

IT'S ONLY BEEN A MONTH SINCE I MET KATOU.

OH YEAH !?

Well, it's all been fun.

Very.

HMM...

SO YOU'RE NOT UNHAPPY ABOUT ANY-THING?

.....

...YOU'RE CUTE IN AN ORDINARY WAY, I GUESS.

TH-THANKS. BUT YOU DON'T SOUND ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT IT.

IS EVERYONE AROUND YOU SO AMAZING?

A POPULAR ILLUS-TRATOR AND A SUCCESSFUL AUTHOR...

YOU'LL STAY!?

WELL, I DID SAY I MIGHT BE LATE GETTING HOME.

YOU PROMISED, KATOU. DON'T LEAVE YET!

WELL...

.....

ON THAT POINT, BECAUSE OF YOU, KATOU, WITH YOUR LACK OF REMARKABLE CHARACTERIS-TICS, IT'S ALL BALANCED, SEE—

YOU COULD COME ON A BIT STRONGER ...

...I GUESS.

.....

LISTEN, KATOU. WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT .....?

Hmmm... Hrrn... What's the differ-ence?

Err, you mean you want me to be more of a bully too?

ABSO-LUTELY NOT! THOSE TWO ARE MORE THAN ENOUGH!

SFX: OOOOOOOOOO (RUMBLE)

AH .....

BUTSUN (CLICK)

Never mind. I'll think it over myself later!

See ya, Aki-kun.

20:11 5月 18日 水曜 16.5℃

.....
THINK ABOUT WHAT?

GOTO (CLACK)

TSUUU (BOOP?)

TSUUU

CLOCK: WEDNESDAY, MAY 1

OKAY! LET'S DO THIS!

THE NEXT DAY— MAY 2, AFTER-NOON

New Project Proposal.txt
File (F) Edit (E) Format (O) View (V) Help (H)

Title:
TBD

PROJECT PROPOSAL PROGRESS: TWO LINES

GU (GUFF)

.....

HRRN
.....

BOOKS: FULL METAL PANIC! 2

EVE-NING

BWAH!?

WHEN DID THAT MOUNTAIN OF READ COMICS GET THERE!?

WHY WOULD I CHOOSE TO READ A SERIES I'VE ALL BUT GOT MEMORIZED AT A TIME LIKE THIS!?

OH NO!

OH NO!

NIGHT

YES! FIVE SECTIONS DONE!

BIT SLEEPY ..... IS IT 'COS OF DINNER ? 8:30 ?

=YAWWWN=

OKAY! QUICK CATNAP TO REFRESH MYSELF!

New Project Proposal.txt

File (F) Edit (E) Format (O) View (V) Help (H)

Title:
TBD

Game Concept:

Prologue:

Selling Points:

Character Details:
Heroine A (name TBD

JUST THE HEADERS THOUGH.

PROJECT PROPOSAL PROGRESS: COMBINED WITH THE WORK DONE THIS AFTERNOON, SEVEN LINES

BWAH!?

THE SCROLL OF WHEN HE WOKE UP AND THE DATE HAD ROLLED OVER!?

GABA (WHUMP)

...MAY 3, ONE A.M.

FOUR DAYS UNTIL DEADLINE

I LEFT THE LIGHTS ON. DOESN'T FEEL LIKE I SLEPT...

I'LL SURF THE WEB A BIT TO WAKE MYSELF UP.

HERE WE GO!

THREE HOURS LATER

ACK! IS MY PROPOSAL WRITING SKILL THAT LOW...?

ACK...! FOUR O'CLOCK .....

PROJECT PROPOSAL PROGRESS: SEVEN LINES (NO CHANGE)

IT'S A NECESSARY PART OF THE CREATIVE PROCESS. IT'LL BE USEFUL AT SOME POINT!

BUT YOU COLLECT A LOT OF INFO CLICKING THROUGH RELATED WIKIPEDIA LINKS.

I'M STILL IN THE MIDDLE OF THE FIGHT.

I HAVE TO SLEEP TO MAINTAIN MY LIFE RHYTHMS.

SAME DAY, ONE P.M.

BWAH!? AFTER-NOON ALREADY !?

13:07 01

5月 3日 金 18℃

CHECKING OUT NEW RELEASES WITHOUT THINKING...

MAY 4

BWAH!?

BWAH!?

MAY 5

MAY 6

GYAAAH!!

AH HA HA HA HA HA!

AH HA HA!

AH HA!

MAY 7, LATE NIGHT, A FEW HOURS BEFORE DEADLINE

New Project Proposal.txt

File (F) Edit (E) Format (O) View (V) Help (H)

Title:
TBD

Game Concept:

Prologue:

Selling Points:

Character Details:
Heroine A (name TBD

BAN (BAM)

PROJECT PROPOSAL PROGRESS: SEVEN LINES

ONE ... NIGHT ... LEFT ...!

FIVE DAYS: NO CHANGE WHATSO-EVER

END

How to Raise a Boring Girlfriend

How to Raise a Boring Girlfriend

ONE NIGHT LEFT!

AH HA HA HA HA HA!

AH HA HA HA!

SENPAI'S SAID IT BEFORE TOO. ONE NIGHT'S MORE THAN ENOUGH FOR A PROPOSAL.

THERE'S STILL A CHANCE. I CAN MAKE IT EVEN NOW

NO. CALM DOWN. IT'S NOT TIME TO FREAK OUT YET.

.....!

諦める

GIVE UP!

...AFTER COMING THIS FAR.....

BUT.....

...THOSE WORDS I'VE BEEN EVADING ARE CREEPING UP ON ME.....

CHAPTER 7

NOT YET.....
NOT YET.....
I HAVE TO DO THIS.
NOT YET,
NOT YET,
NOT YET,
NOT YET!

"GIVE UP."

GASH!

GASH

SENPAI TOLD ME THAT AWESOME PROJECTS CREATED IN ONE NIGHT DO ACTUALLY EXIST IN THE WORLD.

BASICALLY, RINRI-KUN...

GASH! (SKRISH)

DAN

MORE TIME SPENT DOESN'T ALWAYS EQUAL GOOD IDEAS.

DAN

DAN (BAM)

AND LESS TIME DOESN'T HAVE TO MEAN LOW QUALITY.

IN THE END, WHAT YOU CAN OR CANNOT ACHIEVE DEPENDS ON TALENT.

...THERE ARE NO MINIMUMS OR MAXIMUMS ON PEOPLE'S IMAGINATIONS.

SO, IF YOU APPLY THAT TO ME, THEN .....

IT'S TOO CRUEL!

...AND NOT EVEN THEIR TALENT FOR HARD WORK.

NOT THE CREATIVE TALENTS THOSE TWO HAVE.....

YEAH..... THAT'S RIGHT.

THIS PAST WEEK, I HAVE TRULY LEARNED THAT I HAVE NO TALENT.

...THE RESULT WAS SO SLAPDASH AND CRAPPY THAT ERIRI CRUMPLED IT UP.

POI (TOSS)

GUSHA (CRUMPLE)

AND WHEN I MET KATOU AGAIN AND MY CREATIVE PASSION WAS REIGNITED ...

I CAN'T IMAGINE ANYTHING LIKE TEAM-WORK BETWEEN THOSE TWO.....

PLUS, MY CHOICE OF ALLIES MAKES FOR AN IMPRACTICAL LINEUP, JUST LIKE KATOU SAID.

NO, MAYBE IT'S NOT JUST THIS ONE WEEK.

...BUT IN THE END, I COULDN'T EVEN COME UP WITH A PLOT.

BEFORE THE NEW SCHOOL TERM STARTED, I WAS RARING TO GO, AT FIRST...

...MOST IMPORTANTLY, KATOU DOESN'T SEEM TO HAVE ANY INTEREST EITHER.....

AND..... AND.....

ZAWA

ZAWA

ZAWA

ZAWA WAOOSHU

GIVE UP!

...IT'LL MAKE EVERYONE HAPPY.

IF I QUIT...

NOW I'VE COME THIS FAR, I REALIZE SOME-THING...

I HAVE TO DO THIS!

"IF I JUST QUIT" .....

BLACK COFFEE

AKI-KUN... WHAT WOULD YOU SAY ARE MY..... GOOD POINTS...?

OR WAS I A BORE...?

LET ME ASK BACK.....

DIDN'T YOU HAVE FUN WITH ME, KATOU...?

...YOU'RE CUTE IN AN ORDINARY WAY, I GUESS.

NAH. IT'S JUST, WELL, KATOU...

OH! SORRY. UMM.....

WELL, PLEASE ORDER WHATEVER YOU WANT. IT'S ALL ON ME TODAY.

YEAH. I AGREE. SO PLEASE FORGET I SAID IT.

BUT YOU DON'T SOUND ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT IT.

TH- THANKS.

GABA (WHUMP)

New Project Propos
(F) Edit (E) Format (O)

WHAT IF THIS .....?

KATA (KTAK)

Nah...
It's just, well, Katou, you

NAH..... IT'S JUST, WELL, KATOU .....

KATA

KATA

.....

HM?

EEP!

YOU'RE CUTE IN AN ORDINARY WAY, I GUESS.

H-HANG ON!

H-HUH?

WHAT'S WITH THE UPSET FACE? IT WAS A COMPLIMENT.

B-BUT WOULD YOU SAY THAT TO A GIRL YOU'RE MEETING PRACTICALLY FOR THE FIRST TIME?

FIRST OFF, YOU'RE TOTALLY WRONG ABOUT THAT "UPSET FACE."

I KINDA LACK TACT, SO I DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND THAT STUFF.

OH! SO THAT'S NOT SOMETHING GIRLS LIKE TO HEAR AFTER ALL, HUH?

OH, YEP. SEEMS LIKE YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND AT ALL.

...
REALLY CAN TURN IT ON.

YOU ...

KATA

WHO KNEW, KATOU?

KATA (KTAK)

.....

I'M BEG-GING YOU!

.....

I- I SEE ...

...I... CAN'T.

SEE, I...

...DIDN'T BRING A CHANGE OF UNDER-WEAR!

YOU SHOULD BE! I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU!

I'M SORRY FOR ASKING YOU TO STAY THE NIGHT OUT OF THE BLUE.

B- BUT I—

YOU, KATOU! I REALLY —!

I'VE IMAGINED IT ALL BEFORE.

KATA (KTAK)

KATA KATA

I DON'T HAVE PJS, OR A TOOTHBRUSH, OR A DRYER! I'D BE A MESS TOMORROW MORNING!

BUT THEN I...

...JUST SAY SOMETHING BEFITTING A SINCERE BUT DUMB GUY...

HUH .....? WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

AND KATOU SPITS BACK SOMETHING JUST A TINY BIT NAIVER .....

WHAT DO YOU MEAN!?

GIRLS NEED LOTS OF THINGS TO GET THEM-SELVES READY!

SO .....

...ASK ME AGAIN SOME-TIME?

HUH ...?

I'LL BRING MY STUFF, THEN.

TO STAY OVER.

SO, AKI-KU—

TO-MOYA-KUN, YOU BE READY TOO.

THERE.

LOOK HOW MOE YOU ARE NOW.

READY .....

...TO CALL ME "MEGUMI," OKAY?

IT'S 'COS... I FELT BITTER THE KATOU I KNOW ISN'T LIKE THAT.

WHY DID I WANT TO TURN KATOU INTO THE HEROINE OF A GAL GAME?

OH..... YEAH.

THAT'S RIGHT.....

SO... ...THAT WAS NEGATED BY KATOU HERSELF.

BUT... I FELT DESTINY BETWEEN US WHEN WE MET.

...I WANTED TO TRY TO RESTORE THAT BETRAYED DESTINY IN THE GAME.

KATOU, NOW.....

TAN (TAKK)

.....I FINALLY GET IT!

YOU
.....

...
REJECTED
ME.

...IN THAT GENTLE WAY, YOU REJECTED ME.

BY SHOWING YOURSELF TO BE AN ALL TOO IDEAL "FRIEND"...

...BUT YOU'RE OPEN-MINDED .....

YOU DON'T GO OUT OF YOUR WAY TO FLIRT WITH OTAKU

YOU ARE LAID-BACK.

YOUR CHAR-ACTER IS UNDE-FINED.

I WANTED MY HEART TO RACE.

I WANTED A MORE INTENSE INTERACTION.

SO I WANTED TO MEET A DIFFERENT KATOU IN THE GAME.

I DIDN'T JUST WANT FUN. I WANTED SOME PAINFUL FEELINGS TOO.

I WANTED TO HAVE AN EMBARRASSING CONVERSATION LIKE THIS ONE.

KATA

KATA

KATA

I WANTED TO BE JEALOUS.

I.....
FELL FOR
YOU SO
HARD.....

KATA
(KTAK)

KATATA

KATA

KATA

KATA

CHUN
(CHEEP)

CHUN

.....
DONE.

I DID
IT!

BAN
(WHAM)

THE PROPOSAL DOCUMENT IS ALMOST ENTIRELY DIALOGUE.

JAKA (PEDAL)

GYARIRI (SCREECH)

I JUST WOVE IT OUT OF MY DELUSIONS ...

...BUT THAT'S FINE!

THIS IS THE GAME I WANTED TO MAKE!

I CAN SAY THAT WITH PRIDE!

POSU (POOMF)

!

BA (WHAP)

KIKIIII (SKREEEBE)

HA-WHA —!?

HA! HA HA HA HA—

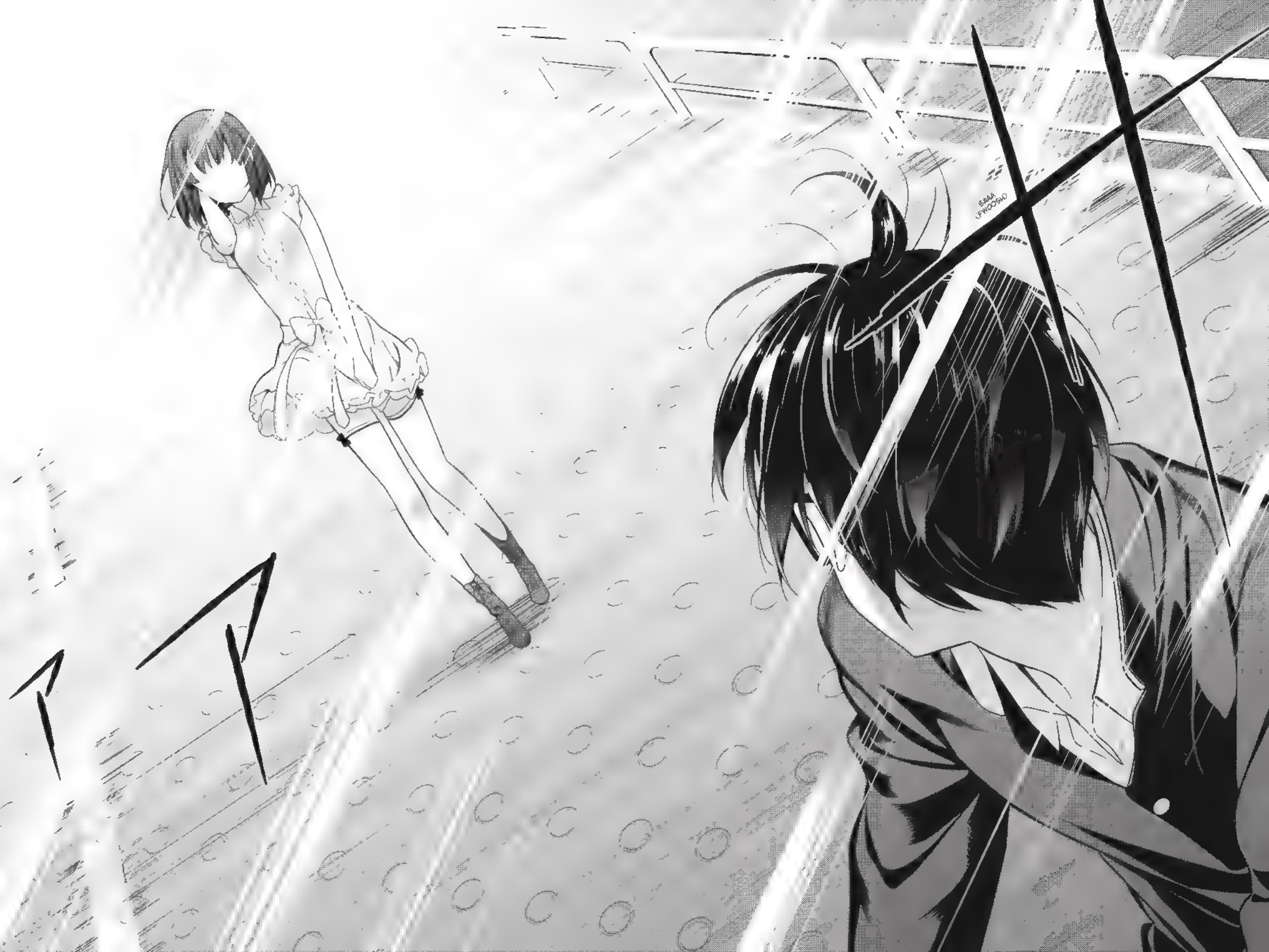
FUWA (WHOOSH)

JAKO (SHRAK)

JAKO

I WANT KATOU TO SEE IT RIGHT AWAY!

I WONDER WHAT SHE'LL THINK WHEN SHE SEES HOW I'VE MADE HER THE MAIN DISH!


ア ア
SAAA (FWOOSH)

LONG TIME NO SEE!

SO WE MEET AGAIN, HM?

K-KATOU .....?

HUH?

YOU KNOW EXACTLY WHO I AM...

FUWAA (AIR?)

...TOMOYA AKI-KUN!

HER SMILE'S RADIANT .....

HER WORDS ARE FULL OF FEELING .....

THE WAY SHE TALKS HAS LUSTER...

THERE'S NO DOUBT.

THIS IS THE GIRL FROM BACK THEN.

THANK YOU!

...!

PON (PAFF)

PON

OH!

HERE ....

...
HUH?

IT'S..... A "DO-OVER."

KA-KATOU ...?
WHAT IS ALL THIS ...?

SH-SHE'S SO CUTE .....

...BUT AFTER THAT, THE DRAMA WENT AWAY.

THIS IS OUR REDO, SEE?

A DESTINY DO-OVER.

WE WENT AND HAD SUCH A DRAMATIC MEETING BACK THEN...

SHALL WE GO AGAIN!?

FROM THE TOP?

C'MON!

LET'S MAKE OUR STORY NOW.

LET'S MAKE IT TOGETHER.

...SHE'S STOLEN MY EYES, MY HEART, MY BREATH.

JUST LIKE SHE DID THAT DAY .....

DOKUN (BADUM)

OKAY, RETAKE.

YOU REMEMBERED ME.

I'M SO HAPPY. I THOUGHT I WAS COMPLETELY UNREMARKABLE.

DOKUN

DOKUN (BADUM)

OH! THAT'S NOT TRUE.

AND I KNOW ALL ABOUT YOU TOO, YOU KNOW? TOMOYA AKI-KUN.

THE WHIZ KID OF SECOND YEAR, CLASS B, THEY SAY

A HOPELESS FANATIC, THEY SAY.

DOKUN

WOW .....

DOKUN

AH-HA-HA! BUT IT WASN'T ME THAT SAID IT!

DOKUN

DOKUN

DOKUN

..... THAT'S AWFUL! WHY WOULD YOU SAY THAT?

HEY, STOOP DOWN A BIT?

DOKUN

THAT'S OKAY.

I NEED TO REPAY THE FAVOR.

OH, RIGHT!

DOKUN

L- LIKE THIS?

TO THE SAME LEVEL AS MY EYES.

HMM. JUST A BIT MORE.

DOKUN

DOKUN

HUH? LIKE THIS?

WHA —!?

OKAY, NOW CLOSE YOUR EYES.

DOKUN

DOKUN

NO..... NO WAY ...!!

O—

OKAY!

GU (PRESS)

HURRY UP!

OKAY! YOU CAN OPEN YOUR EYES NOW!

...PFFT!

DOKUN

?

DOKUN (BADUM)

"PFFT" ?

WHOA!

HUH ? HUH ?

DOOON (BAMMM)

I-IT DOESN'T SUIT YOU AT AAAALL!

POFU (POFF)

WAH!

I GUESS SO, WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT IT!

TEE HEE HEE HEE HEE!

PEI (LOB)

D-DUH!

IT'S FOR GIRLS!

.....

I SEE! SO SHE'S THROWN AWAY ALL HER BORING TENDENCIES AND GONE FOR MOE APPEAL?

STOP LAUGHING SO MUCH!

THAT'S WHY IT'S A "DO-OVER." ROLE-PLAYING TO CREATE OUR IDEAL REUNION ...

SORRY, SORRY!

I'LL HAVE TO THANK YOU IN SOME OTHER WAY, HUH?

I TOLD YOU, YOU DON'T NEED TO.....

OKAY. I'M TAKING REQUESTS, SO ASK AWAY!

...W-WAIT!

WHAT!?

I CAN'T PROMISE I'LL DO ANYTHING, BUT I'LL DO MY BEST, OKAY?

BUT YOU'VE ONLY GOT FIVE SECONDS. AFTER THAT, IT'S NO LONGER VALID!

N-NO, WAIT!

THAT'S TOO SOON!

FOUR-RRR!

H-HANG ON A MINUTE!

THREE-EEEE!

TWO-OOO...

I KEEP TELLING YOU—

.....!

.....

...OOOO...

...AH!

...OOOO...

HFF!
HAAH!
HAAAAH!
BWAAAH!
あっ
はぁ
ああ
ああ
.....
ARE YOU OKAY?
HFF!
HFF!
HFF!
HFF!
SHE WASN'T PREPARED...
...FOR ME TO NOT ANSWER IN TIME.
...OKAY, GO ON!
CAN I TRY TO MAKE A REQUEST AGAIN?
MEANING IF I DON'T, THEN THE STORY CAN'T MOVE AHEAD.
SO THEN, KATOU
.....

BE THE HEROINE IN MY GAME.

HUH ...?

.....
ALL RIGHT.

YEP.

SURE.

THE ROUTE...

KATOU .....

...HAS BEEN UNLOCKED.

...AND I KNOW IT'S ALL AN ACT...

AND I CAN CALL YOU "MEGUMI"?

IT WAS THE SAME QUICK DECI-SION AS BEFORE...

IS IT OKAY IF I CALL YOU "TOMOYA-KUN"?

EVERY DAY'S GOING TO BE FUN FROM HERE ON OUT!

...BUT THE IMPACT I'M FEELING IS COMPLETELY DIFFERENT.

HUH!?

YOU..... HAVE TO KEEP CALLING ME "KATOU."

HUH?

AND IF NOT, THEN YOU HAVE TO CALL ME "AKI" TOO!

PULLUN

PULLUN

PULLUN

I GET TO CALL YOU "MEGUMI"!

NO WAY! GENDER EQUALITY!

PULLUN (FLUME)

WELL, BUT..... OTHER GIRLS CALL YOU BY YOUR FIRST NAME, TOMOYA-KUN.

THERE AREN'T ANY OTHER BOYS WHO CALL ME "MEGUMI."

SO MOE..... MY HEART'S RACING .....

YOU'RE SUCH A MEANIE, TOMOYA-KUN.

FEELS LIKE MY HEART'S GONNA RIP APART ...
... THIS IS SO FUN!
♪~
SWEET!
... ME-GUMI!
THANK YOU FOR THE POSITIVE RESPONSE ...

THE CONVERSATION I WANTED TO RECREATE IN THE GAME... THIS IS IT!

HUH!?
NOW, TO SEAL THE CON-TRACT .....
GASHI (GRAB)
HUH!?
... TO-MO-Y—
I'M LOOK-ING FOR-WARD TO IT..
SO THE AGREE-MENT IS EFFEC-TIVE AS OF NOW?

HUH? NO! WAH!?
NOW, CLOSE YOUR EYES!
SINCE WE'VE COME THIS FAR, I'LL ACT LIKE THE TYPICAL GAL GAME PROTAG-ONIST TOO!
GU
GU (STRAIN)

HUH? NO WAY! THAT'S NOT WHAT WE TALKED ABOUT!
WHO SAID WHAT, NOW?
BUT YOU SAID YOU HAD ZERO INTEREST IN REAL-WORLD WOMEN, AKI-KUN .....
JUST FOR ONE SEC!
EVEN ONE SECOND COUNTS AS 100 PERCENT!

..

"ONE SEC" MY ASS, YOU SCUM-BAG PRO-TAAG i i

HMPH!

PAN (CLAP)

PAN

POSA (HUMP)

GYAAHH!

ERIRI... WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE ...?

I'M SORRY, KATOU.

I HAD NO IDEA HE WAS ACTUALLY SUCH A MINDLESS ANIMAL (REAL-WORLD BEAST).

SENPAI TOO?

GYUUU (SQUEEZE)

AWW... I'M DONE .....

CHIRA (GLANCE)

I PULLED THREE ALL-NIGHTERS IN A ROW. I'VE HIT THE WALL .....

...TOO NICE ABOUT THINGS.....

YOU REALLY ARE.....

SOOO, BASICALLY ...

...TO OUTLINE THIS SERIES OF EVENTS...

I SEE, KATOU.

THANK YOU FOR EXPLAINING IT

...YOU SWAPPED YOUR CLOTHES AND HAIRSTYLE FOR THOSE OF ERIRI'S DESIGN...

I CAN'T WEAR STUFF LIKE THIS!

IT'S FINE! IT'LL SUIT HIS TASTES!

...AND DESPERATELY MEMORIZED UTAHA-SENPAI'S SCRIPT AND DIRECTION.

EEEP!

HEY, YOU SCREWED UP AGAIN! WE'RE STILL ON PAGE 2 OF 50! DO YOU EVEN HAVE A BRAIN?

THEN I COPPED ERIRI'S CLOTHESLINE AND GOT KILLED.

YOU LEFT YOUR PHONE ON SO THOSE TWO COULD OVERHEAR OUR CHAT ON THE HILL.

IN FACT, I FELL INTO YOUR SNARE..... AND HERE WE ARE.

*GRAPHICS ARE STILL IN DEVELOPMENT. GAME SPECS MAY CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTIFICATION.

A DEMO?

KIND OF LIKE A DEMO FOR THE GAME WE'RE GOING TO MAKE.

BUT I DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS.

...LIKE THAT, HUH?

AND IT WAS THOSE TWO WHO PLANNED ALL OF TODAY.

JUST WHAT KIND OF SORCERY DID YOU USE TO GET THOSE TWO TO HELP YOU SO EASILY?

AND YOU STILL HAVEN'T TOLD ME, HAVE YOU?

SO I GUESS I'M A RELIABLE SUBJECT FOR MARKET TESTING .....

OH. HUH.

THEY SAID IF I COULD HOOK YOU, THEN WE'D GET ALL THE OTHER OTAKU OUT THERE.

NO, NOT GOOD!

MUKU (GIF)

ISN'T IT GREAT, AKI-KUN? THEY'VE JOINED THE CIRCLE.

.....?

HMM. I'M NOT REALLY SURE. I JUST CASUALLY ASKED, AND THEY READILY AGREED.

WHAT!?

...I WAS ALREADY AT HANEDA.

ACTUALLY, WHEN WE WERE ON THE PHONE ...

YOU WERE IN HOKKAIDO UNTIL YESTERDAY, RIGHT?

OH. UHH ...

YOU'RE WELCOME.

HERE'S THIS BACK.

ERIRI AND SENPAI ARE BOTH BUSY WITH MONEY-MAKING PROJECTS.

WHY WOULD THEY TAKE KATOU'S REQUEST ON FOR FREE?

SO WHEN, WHERE, HOW DID YOU ASK THEM?

I WONDERED IF I COULD HELP SOMEHOW AND NOT BE USELESS.

AND I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE BAD NEWS TO JUST LEAVE IT LIKE THAT INTO THE HOLIDAYS

THAT WAS .....

YOU SEEMED LIKE YOU HIT A BRICK WALL OF SOME KIND, AK-KUN.

WHEN WE WERE LEAVING THE SIGNING .....

AND THEY GOT ME TO HELP THEM WITH THIS PRODUCTION.

YEAH. I ASKED THEM AGAIN.

SO YOU WENT TO THOSE TWO?

SO I LEFT THE PROPOSAL TO YOU AND TRIED SOMETHING OUT FOR MYSELF.

WHAT WOULD YOU SAY ARE MY..... GOOD POINTS ...?

AHA... SO THAT'S WHAT THAT QUESTION WAS FOR, HUH?

LIKE THE DRESS, AND THE HAT, AND THE HILL.....

...OH, BUT I HELPED TO FIGURE OUT A SETUP YOU'D LIKE.

WELL, OTHER THAN THE ACTING, I JUST DID THIS AND THAT.

WHAT KATOU LACKS IS "PASSION."

...THEY REALIZED THAT THE THING THEY HAD MISGIVINGS ABOUT HAD JUST RESOLVED ITSELF.

PROBABLY THE VERY MOMENT KATOU WENT TO THEM...

IT WASN'T ME GETTING SERIOUS.

THAT'S WHY THEY WERE READY TO HELP.

IT WAS 'COS THEY SAW KATOU WAS TRYING TO TAKE IT SERIOUSLY.

OH! THIS HANDKERCHIEF IS SOAKED. WHERE SHOULD I PUT IT?

BUT YOU MAKE FUN OF ME FOR MY WEAK CHARACTER ALL THE TIME, SO EVEN IF YOU SAY THAT, IT STILL DOESN'T GIVE ME CONFI-DENCE.

WELL, THINGS ARE STILL VERY GENERAL NOW.

YOU'LL BE FINE, KATOU.

I STILL REALLY DON'T KNOW WHAT WE'LL BE DOING.

BUT IT'S JUST THE START.

...NOW WE'RE FINALLY MOVING, RIGHT?

WELL, IN ANY CASE...

BAN (BANG)

HUNH?

I CAN TOTALLY FALL FOR A CHARACTER LIKE YOU!

NO, AFTER TODAY, I SEE

'COS NOW I CAN

I CAN...

YES, KATOU'S PERFORMANCE IS LONG OVER.

OH! THERE'S THE OLD, FLAT KATOU AGAIN.

OH, WELL, I GUESS THAT'S TRUE.

IT'S MORE THREE-DIMENSIONAL THAN ON A SCREEN.

UMM... WHY MERCHANDISE .....?

IF I HAD A BODY PILLOW OF YOU, I'D SLEEP WITH IT EVERY NIGHT!

I WANNA COLLECT ALL OF YOUR CHARACTER MERCH!

I CAN'T EAT ALL THAT BY MYSELF IN ONE DAY ....

AND ACTUALLY, I BOUGHT THEM LAST WEEK, SO THE BEST-BEFORE DATE IS TODAY.

HERE'S THE MARUSEI BUTTER SAND YOU ASKED FOR. TWO BOXES

OH, WAIT!

GACHAN (CLANK)

OKAY. TIME FOR SCHOOL ?

I'M LEFT WITH A LOT OF CONFUSION AND MOE FEELINGS.

IS PUTTING ON WEIGHT THE THING YOU'RE MOST WORRIED ABOUT?

THAT'LL MAKE ME FAT!

WE CAN KILL SOME TIME PLAYING GAMES WHILE WE'RE AT IT!

OKAY! LET'S SKIP SCHOOL AND GO HAVE THESE AT MY PLACE!

WHAAA —!? I CAN'T DO THAT!

ANYWAY, AS USUAL, SHE'S TOO EASY-GOING.

BUT WHATEVER! THIS IS WHERE IT ALL BEGINS!

END

How to Raise a Boring Girlfriend

How to Raise a Boring Girlfriend

"DATE DE HUSTLE"

POSO (MUTTER)

HERE'S YOUR ICED TEA AND CARBO-NARA!

OH, THANKS!

SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAIT-ING!

SO, THEN ORIZURU COMES IN—

...I'M TRYING TO EARN MONEY FOR THE WAR CHEST.

SO I'VE TAKEN ON MORE PART-TIME JOBS.

NOW THAT MY DOUJIN GAME CIRCLE'S COME TOGETH-ER...

HEY, THAT WAITER JUST NOW.

CHIRIRIN (TINKLE)

OOPS! CUSTOM-ER.

BUT..... HANG IN THERE .....

...OKAY, KATOU .....?

!?

TABLE FOR HOW M—?

HERA (BEAM)

WEL-COME!

THERE'S DVD PRESSING FEES, PACKAGING, GAME MANUAL PRODUC-TION.....

PRINTING COSTS

ART FEES

...AND VARIOUS OTHER COSTS..... I'LL NEED OVER A MILLION YEN..... THAT'S WHAT SENPAI SAID.

I NEVER IMAGINED AN AMATEUR PROJECT COULD COST THIS MUCH.....

WRITER FEES

HUH? AKI-KUN?

CHAPTER 8

?

T-TABLE FOR TWO... SMOKING OR .....?

HIKU

EH EH

HIKU (TWITCH)

THE NEXT DAY

KATOU! WHY, YOU!?

DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT YOU'VE DONE!?

I'M SORRY. YOU DON'T LIKE IT WHEN PEOPLE SEE YOU AT WORK?

NO, IT'S NOT ABOUT ME! IT'S HIM!

THAT GUY!

"THAT GUY".....?

INCIDENTALLY, HIS BANGS WERE SMOOTH, AND HE HAD THAT KIND OF "SOY SAUCE FACE" THAT WAS POPULAR A DECADE AGO— NO HINT OF GREASE TO BE SEEN.

P-PLEASED TO MEET YOU...

AH! MY NAME IS KEIICHI KATOU.

HE WAS KATOU'S OLDER COUSIN AND A MED STUDENT.

WHAT'S MORE, HE DROVE AN A●DI.

OH.

KEI-ICHI-KUN?

YES! KEIICHI-KUN!

EEP .....

I SAID I HEARD IT! YOU!

YOU SAY IT LIKE HE'S YOUR BOY-FRIEND!

"HE" !?

DID HE DO SOME-THING WRONG?

!

...TOTALLY SETS OFF THE ONII-CHAN FLAG!

AN OLDER MALE COUSIN .....

KATOU ..... GIVE IT UP..... LISTEN .....

GIVE WHAT UP?

PON (PAT)

IT'S THE STORY OF A YOUNG GIRL .....

WHAT'S THAT?

UNLIKE THE LOCAL BOYS, HIS EASY SMILE MADE HER FEEL STRANGELY SHY.....

EVERY YEAR, ONLY AT OBON AND NEW YEAR'S, WHEN HER WHOLE FAMILY GATHERED AT HER HOUSE, THE GIRL WOULD MEET A WISE, MATURE-LOOKING BOY.

BUT ONE YEAR, THERE CAME A TURNING POINT.

SO, SHE WOULD AWKWARDLY TRY TO AVOID HIM, AND IT BECAME AN ANNUAL CUSTOM THAT, WHEN THE DAY OF PARTING CAME, SHE WOULD REGRET IT.

AS ALWAYS, SHE SHOOK OFF THE BOY'S INVITATIONS.

SHE FORCED HER WAY UP INTO THE MOUNTAINS ALONE, THEN TWISTED HER ANKLE AND COULDN'T MOVE.

BUT THEN, PUSHING THROUGH THE BUSHES CAME THE BOY.

LONELY AND SCARED, THE LITTLE GIRL COULDN'T EVEN CALL OUT.....

WHEN SHE CAME TO, IT WAS EVENING ON THE MOUNTAIN.

AS THE BOY, COVERED IN CUTS AND BRUISES, CARRIED HER BACK DOWN THE MOUNTAIN...

...THE GIRL, WHO COULDN'T EVEN MAKE A SOUND BEFORE, BEGAN TO CRY, HER VOICE AND TEARS FLOWING OUT IN UNISON. THE LITTLE GIRL, CRADLED AGAINST THE BOY'S BACK, WEPT ALL THE WAY HOME.

OVER AND OVER ...

..."ONII-CHAN!" LITTLE MEGUMI CRIED, HER VOICE WET WITH TEARS...

UH, "MEGUMI"? NOT SURE HOW I SHOULD—

SO NOW, AS THE MEMORIES CROSSED YOUR MIND OVER YOUR MEAL, YOU WERE WHISPERING, "I WONDER IF IT WOULD BE OKAY TO CALL YOU 'ONII-CHAN' AFTER ALL THIS TIME?" WEREN'T YOU?

WHO WOULD DO THAT!?

YOU WOULD! LIKE IN A GAL GAME!

AND I BET YOU ALSO PROMISED TO MARRY EACH OTHER AND STUFF! AND YOU'VE HELD ON TO THAT PROMISE ALL ALONG!

IF I WERE KEIICHI-KUN, I'D BE CRAZY FOR YOU!

WHAAT!?

KATOU, LET ME ASK YOU AGAIN.

MAYBE IT'S UNREA-SONABLE. MAYBE I'M BEING A PAIN.

MAYBE YOU THINK I'M BEING AN IDIOT.

YOU CAN LEAVE OUT THE MAYBES .....

RIGHT NOW, AS A GAL GAME HEROINE, YOU'VE GOT A ROMANCE BAN ON YOU.

TO CAST THE PROTAGO-NIST—THE PLAYERS—ASIDE AND INTRODUCE A LOVE RIVAL CHARACTER IS A NO-GO.....

SO .....

...I DON'T WANT YOU TO SEE KEIICHI-KUN FOR A WHILE.

UNTIL THE GAME'S DONE, IF POSSIBLE.

(BLIN (WHOOSH)

KATOU! I'M BEGGING YOU!

AS A CRE-ATOR WHO HAS SWORN TO MAKE THE BEST EVER GAL GAME ...

...AS THE REP OF THE CIRCLE THAT HAS SWORN TO MAKE THIS PROJ-ECT A SUC-CESS ...

...AS THE HONOR-ABLE PRODUCER WHO'S VOWED TO TURN YOU INTO THE MAIN HEROINE—

I ASKED A FRIEND FIRST, BUT SHE SAID, "IT'LL BE TOO BUSY, SINCE IT JUST OPENED, SO I DON'T WANT TO GO."

KIIIN (RING)

SEE, IT'S CALLED THE "ROKUTENBA MALL." THEY ONLY FINISHED IT THIS MONTH, SO IT CAN'T BE HELPED.

OUUUUUT!

WE'RE ALREADY GOING OUT THIS WEEK-END.

ZUBIII (THWACK)

UM, SORRY.

YOU WILL?

I'LL TURN DOWN KEIICHI-KUN, THEN.

..... WELL, I GUESS THAT'S OKAY TOO.

THERE IT IS! HER GO-ALONG-WITH-ANYTHING-NESS!

THEN I'LL GO IN HER PLACE!

AHA!

AND WHEN I TOLD HIM THAT, HE SAID HE'D GO WITH ME IN HER PLACE.

HUH?

OKAY, SO THIS WEEKEND.

NINE O'CLOCK IN FRONT OF THE STATION?

YOU BET!

THE WEEK-END

I'M SO SORRY.

安　芸

Aki

I CAN'T GO..... I APOLO-GIZE.

What's wrong? Is it a cold?

I'M I'M RUNNING A FEVER OVER ONE HUNDRED AND TWO DEGREES. SOME-THING LIKE THAT. YEAH.

I CAN'T TELL HER! TO THINK I GOT A STRESS FEVER 'COS OF A DATE!

UMM, LUNCH... ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT SWEETS?

HM?

I'M REALLY SORRY .....

It's fine. Take care, okay ?

YEAH.

HM? A FRIEND?

Y- YEAH..... IT WAS NOTHING .....

..... BY THE WAY .....

...WHY ARE YOU DRAWING YOUR DRAFT IN A SICK PERSON'S BEDROOM?

COULD IT BE THIS IS A GET-WELL —?

OF COURSE NOT!

...YOU COULD AT LEAST LET ME SAY "VISIT" BEFORE YOU DENY IT.

GATA (CLACK)

NO REASON.

BETTER YET, DON'T TALK TO ME. I'M BUSY WITH MY MONTHLY DEADLINE.

KARI (SCRITCH)

KARI

KARI

THAT'S FUNNY COMING FROM YOU.

YOU'VE REALLY GOT DATING SIMS ON THE BRAIN TOO.....

THIS IS SO NOT THAT!

TO A GIRL, A GET-WELL VISIT COUNTS AS A MAJOR EVENT FLAG!

NO, YOU CAN'T! RETURNING FAVORS IS JUST GOOD MANNERS!

I JUST BROUGHT SOME STUFF OVER TO REPAY YOU.

YOU HELPED ME WITH MY DRAFT A WHILE BACK.

IF YOU'VE BROUGHT GIFTS, YOU MIGHT AS WELL CALL IT A "GET-WELL VISIT"!

STILL HOVERING AROUND A HUNDRED.

SO, HAS YOUR FEVER GONE DOWN?

ANYWAY, IT MUST BE TEN YEARS SINCE YOU WERE LAST SICK IN BED, RIGHT?

IT'S A GET-WELL BASKET ANY WAY YOU SLICE IT! IF I POINT IT OUT, DO I LOSE?

A CANTA-LOUPE, BANANAS, APPLES .....

STILL...

...TO BE LAID UP WITH A STRESS FEVER .....

URR...NO APPETITE...

THERE'S NO WAY I'M THAT TOUGH!

YOUR MEMORY HAS A GAP OF ABOUT SEVEN YEARS IN IT.

BACK THEN, I'M SURE IT WAS—

UTAHA-SENPAI HAS A FULL PLATE WRITING HER NEW WORK.

ERIRI'S BUSY WITH HER DOUJIN STUFF.

I'LL HAVE TO TAKE TIME OFF FROM MY NEW PART-TIME JOBS.

WE JUST FORMED OUR CIRCLE, BUT IN THE END, WE'RE GOING NOWHERE.

HOWEVER YOU LOOK AT IT, IT'S A DATE SPOT FOR REAL-WORLD TYPES.

ROKU-TENBA MALL.

BOFU (BOFF)

WELL, THEN THERE'S ME, THINKING I COULD GO ON A DATE IN THE MIDDLE OF ALL THAT.....

NOW, AT LAST, I'VE LEARNED MY LESSON—

THAT GIRL LIVES IN A DIFFERENT WORLD THAN OTAKU DO.

KATOU WANTED TO GO THERE.

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN ON A DATE?

GARI (SCRATCH)

.....

ERIRI

.....

UMM

.....

KARI (SCRITCH)

KARI

WHAT?

AAAAAAH!

WAS THE QUESTION THAT SHOCKING?

HEARING A DEAD WORD LIKE "DATE" IN THIS DAY AND AGE GIVES ME GOOSE BUMPS!

I'M A CREEPY OTAKU, SO I DON'T KNOW THAT KINDA STUFF, AND I USE DEAD WORDS!

IT'S EVEN WORSE COMING FROM A CREEPY OTAKU LIKE YOU!

SO HOW AM I SUP-POSED TO PUT IT!?

O-OR ARE YOU SUBTLY ASKING ME OUT?

AS REPAY-MENT FOR THE FRUIT MAYBE? YOU GO FROM ONE EXTREME TO THE NEXT!

WHO'S ASKING YOU OUT!?

.....AND JUST SO YOU KNOW, THAT WASN'T A TSUNDERE RESPONSE, SO DON'T TAKE IT THE WRONG WAY!

SO WITH WHO?

..... AHA. KATOU-SAN, RIGHT?

GIKU (JOLT)

WASHA

WASHA (SCRUFF)

ABSO-LUTELY NOT! GAH! OKAY, I'LL PUT IT A DIFFERENT WAY!

WHAT I'M ASKING IS...

"AWAY GAME"?

...HOW ARE YOU SUPPOSED TO ACT AT AN "AWAY GAME"?

...GOING TO NON-FAST FOOD RESTAURANTS.....

GOING TO A MALL WITH A GIRL AND LOOKING AT CLOTHES, WATCHING NON-ANIME MOVIES...

SPECIAL EDITION

OPENING

ROKUTENBA MALL

...WHAT ARE YOU SUPPOSED TO DO?

LIKE, WHEN YOU'RE FORCED INTO A SITUATION WHERE YOU HAVE TO GO SOMEWHERE YOU'RE NOT COMFORTABLE...

SO, AWAY GAME TACTICS..... LET'S SEE.....

GISHI (CREAK)

.....

I'M ONE OF YOUR SO-CALLED "CREEPY OTAKU."

I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH MYSELF IN THOSE KINDS OF STUFFY SITUATIONS.

AIM FOR A DRAW.

GET IT?

A DRAW?

YES.

EVEN IF YOU HATE THE PLACE OR HAVE NO INTEREST IN IT, MAKE SURE YOU DO YOUR HOMEWORK.

IF YOU STILL HIT TROUBLE, KEEP SMILING.

IF YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT SHE'S SAYING, DON'T TRY TO SHOW OFF. JUST PUT ON A PUZZLED FACE.

BE CAREFUL TO AVOID USELESS QUESTIONS. DON'T STAND OUT FROM YOUR SURROUNDINGS.

TRY TO LET HER TAKE CREDIT FOR THINGS .....

BASICALLY, AS LONG AS YOU STAY INCONSPICUOUS, YOU WON'T GET ANY INTEREST OR HOSTILITY, AND YOU CAN RELAX.

THAT'S FOR "HOME GAMES."

AHH .....

WHERE OTAKU ARE COMFORT-ABLE!

BUT DOESN'T IT SUCK IF YOUR DATE DOESN'T CARE ABOUT YOU?

DON'T YOU WANT YOUR DATE TO REALLY ACCEPT YOU?

...

LEAVE IT TO THE GIRL WHO'S ALWAYS WEARING A MASK .....

BET SHE'D WIN EVERY GAME, EVEN AWAY!

HAVING TWO FACES IS DEFINITELY NOT A BAD THING.

FOR YOURSELF TOO.

OH ...!

HM?

COME TO THINK OF IT, KATOU PLAYS IT THE SAME WHETHER SHE'S HOME OR AWAY .....

IN A SENSE, THAT ASPECT OF HER AMAZES ME.....

GATAN (CLACK)

SEE, I KNEW IT! IT'S KATOU-SAN, RIGHT!? I'M RIGHT, AREN'T I!?

C'MON! TELL ME THE TRUTH NOW! MOMMY WON'T BE MAD!

WHY ARE WE BACK TO THAT AGAIN !?

I DON'T KNOW ANY MOMMY WHO SAYS THAT WITHOUT GETTING PISSED!

PINPOOON (DING-DONG)

?

MY, THIS MELON IS DELICIOUS, ISN'T IT!?

GIKU (JOLT)

I THOUGHT SOMETHING LIKE THIS MIGHT HAPPEN, SO I BOUGHT IT MYSELF!

!

JUST LOOK AT ALL THIS! DID SOMEONE PAY YOU A GET-WELL VISIT?

WHY ARE YOU AVOIDING HER?

JUST BUY ME TEN MINUTES! I'LL SLIP OUT!

I GUESS THAT ERIRI MUST'VE MANAGED TO ESCAPE .....

GIKUKU

IT HAS A KIND OF **BOURGEOIS** FLAVOR.

CHIRA (PEEK)

!!

THOSE ALL-KNOWING EYES MAKE ME SICK!

IF SHE SEES ME, SHE'LL LOOK DOWN HER NOSE AT ME WITH THAT I-KNOW-HOW-IT-IS FACE!

IT'S REALLY TASTY!

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THESE TWO IS A REAL PAIN IN THE ASS!

I GOT A MESSAGE FROM KATOU-SAN EARLY THIS AFTER-NOON.

OH.

DOES SHE KNOW ERIRI WAS HERE...!?

WHAT WAS THAT GLANCE FOR?

UHH..... SO HOW'D YOU KNOW I CAUGHT A COLD?

IT SEEMS KATOU-SAN WASN'T SURE IF SHE SHOULD DROP BY AND CHECK IN ON YOU.

I TOLD HER THAT IT WOULD JUST TIRE YOU OUT IF ALL OF US VISITED, SO BEST NOT TO.

HAAH. IS THAT SO?

NAH.

JUST A LITTLE.

YOU SAD ?

NIYA CGRIND

GOOD-NESS! THAT'S NOT THE KIND OF THING SHE'D WRITE IN AN E-MAIL!

NOT OUR KATOU-SAN.

YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT! HA HA...

IS IT REALLY SO MUCH FUN WATCHING ME LOSE IT!?

WELL, YOU CAN MAKE UP FOR IT ON YOUR NEXT DATE, CAN'T YOU?

WHA —!?

DID SHE SAY THAT IN HER MESSAGE TOO?

I ASKED HER ABOUT IT DIRECTLY. I HAD TO CALL HER ABOUT SOMETHING ELSE.

KACHA (CLACK)

AND KATOU JUST OPENED RIGHT UP TO YOU!?

YES, IT WAS CERTAINLY EASY...

...TO TRAP HER WITH MY LEADING QUESTIONS.

YIKES!

IT'S FINE. I WAS CAREFUL HOW I ASKED, SO...

...I'M SURE SHE WASN'T EVEN AWARE SHE'D OPENED HERSELF UP.

SUPER-YIKES!

SO, HOW WAS THE CHAT?

VERY FUN!

NORMAL GIRL TALK.

WE STARTED WITH BOYS..... IN OTHER WORDS, WHAT WE THOUGHT ABOUT YOU, RINRI-KUN.

TOTALLY JUST A FRIEND.

HOW FAR YOU TWO *HAD GONE*.

THE FARTHEST WAS WAGOUSHI CITY.

KOOOOOO (DOOOOM)

AND THEN WE TALKED ABOUT MY FIRST EXPERIENCE WITH YOU, RINRI-KUN .....

IT WAS PAINFUL, YOU KNOW .....!

NO WAY!

WE NEVER HAD A FIRST EXPERI-ENCE!

GUTTARI (SLUMP)

AT THIS RATE, WE'LL NEVER GET ANYWHERE .....

UGH... ERIRI, AND SENPAI, AND ME, AND KATOU .....!

GIVE ME A BREAK, SENPAI .....!

WELL, KATOU-SAN BELIEVED IT.

IS THE IDEA THAT UNREALIS-TIC?

MUSUUU (POUT)

HUH .....?

FASA (SWISH)

I FEEL LIKE I GOT A LITTLE CLOSER TO THE REALIZA-TION OF MEGUMI KATOU, THE HEROINE.

WELL, WE TALKED ABOUT THIS AND THAT, AND IT WAS TIME WELL SPENT.

HER EXPRESSION SUDDENLY..... SEEMED TO BE A TINY BIT WARMER, A TINY BIT MORE SERIOUS...

...A TINY BIT ABASHED.....

JUST AS YOU SAID, RINRI-KUN, IT IS UNDENIABLE THAT HER QUALITIES ARE FEW AND SHALLOW.

BUT CONDENSE EACH OF THOSE SEPARATELY, EXAGGERATE THEM SLIGHTLY, AND SUBTLY SHIFT THEIR AXES...

...AND I THINK SHE CAN BE DEVEL-OPED INTO A CHARAC-TER IN A STORY.

THIS... IS A TRUE CREATOR!

SENPAI.....

YOU MEAN

...BIRTHDAY, MEASURE-MENTS—

...HOBBIES, FAVORITE FOODS, FAVORITE COLOR...

PERSON-ALITY, BEHAVIOR, VERBAL IDIOSYN-CRASIES, FAVORITE PHRASES...

I DRAGGED ALL THE NECESSARY PERSONAL DATA OUT OF HER.

I'LL HELP YOU CREATE YOUR DOUJIN GAME.

YEAH ……

SHALL I START BY COMING UP WITH THE MAIN HEROINE'S DETAILS AND THE PLOT?

THANK YOU, SENPAI!

THIS IS THE BEST GET-WELL VISIT EVER!

!

GABA (GHOOP)

YOU SAY THIS AND THAT, SENPAI, BUT DEEP DOWN, YOU'RE SUPER-NICE!

NO, YOU'RE GREAT!

I'VE FINALLY CLEARED SOME OF MY COM-MERCIAL WORK, SO I JUST WANT TO TAKE CARE OF THIS WHILE I HAVE THE TIME.

YOU DON'T NEED TO BE THAT GRATEFUL ……

REMEMBER THIS.

BUT LISTEN, TOMOYA-KUN.

I JUST MAKE A STRICT DISTINCTION BETWEEN ENEMIES AND ALLIES.

SU (SHFF)

THAT'S NOT TRUE.

HUH!? WHAAA—!?

I WOULD DO ANYTHING FOR YOU, OKAY?

NO, YOU'RE SICK. YOU JUST GET YOUR REST.

OH, I'LL SEE YOU OUT ...

GACHA (CLACK)

OKAY, THEN.

CHIRA (GLANCE)

YOU'VE KINDA SNAPPED BACK TO NORMAL!

IF I END UP WITH FREE TIME LIKE I HAVE SO FAR, THAT IS.

WELL, WHEN I'VE GOT THE TIME, I'LL SPARE NO EFFORT TO HELP OUT, OKAY?

OH. ONE MORE THING.

YOU SHOULD HAVE HIDDEN HER BIKE TOO.

.....HER BIKE?

PATAN (CLICK)

DOSA (F-WUMP)

WHOA!?

SO HOT.....

MADE IT OUT.....

GNNNRGH!

UTAHA KASUMIGAOKA-AAA...!

SHE ABSOLUTELY KNEW I WAS HERE AND DELIBERATELY SAID ALL THOSE THINGS!

CAN'T STAND HERRRR!

YOU NEVER LEFT!?

MUKU (SHD)

TOMOYA!

I'M GONNA START WORKING ON CHARACTER DESIGNS NEXT WEEK TOO!

AND I SHOULD BE ABLE TO FINISH MY DOUJIN DRAFT BY TOMORROW SOMEHOW!

I SEEEE. I'M SOOO HAPPY. THIS IS THE BEST GET-WELL VISIT EVERRR.

WHAT'S WITH THAT TONE OF VOICE? HOW COME YOU SOUND SO APATHETIC WITH ME!?

BUT THERE'S NO DOUBT SENPAI INSPIRED YOU.

IN-SPIRED ME!? HER!?

HMPH!

END

How to Raise a Boring Girlfriend

How to Raise a Boring Girlfriend

I'M SORRY ABOUT THIS WEEK-END!

..

SO PLEASE DON'T BE UPSET WITH ME!

I SWEAR I'LL MAKE UP FOR IT NEXT TIME!

...TO SEE YOU OF ALL PEOPLE ACTING SO HUMBLE TOWARD ME, AKI-KUN.

BUT I DON'T THINK OF MYSELF AS THAT HIGH ABOVE YOU.....

YOU'RE IMPOSSIBLE TO UNDERSTAND..

...I'M JUST A BIT MOVED ...

ARE YOU REALLY THAT ANGRY?

WH-WHAT?

OH. NO. IT'S, UH...

CHAPTER
9

I NEVER CAME TO VISIT YOU.

I DID THINK ABOUT IT, BUT THEN SOMEONE TALKED ME OUT OF IT.

I KNOW. IT WAS UTAHA-SENPAI WHO STOPPED YOU, RIGHT?

OH YEAH. I'M SORRY TOO.

..... FOR WHAT?

I ASKED IF SHE'D COME ALONG WITH ME TO VISIT YOU.....

NO. IT WAS SAWA-MURA-SAN.

HUH?

...BUT SHE SAID YOUR COLDS WERE SO BAD THAT...

...ONCE, IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, YOU ALMOST WIPED OUT THE WHOLE CLASS, AND IT WAS BETTER WE DIDN'T.

..... HUH.

DOES SHE CONSIDER GRADE SCHOOL ME A BIO-WEAPON OR SOME-THING?

OH RIGHT. I DID TALK WITH KASUMI-GAOKA-SENPAI ABOUT LOTS OF STUFF TOO THOUGH.

!

LOTS OF STUFF .....

AND THEN WE TALKED ABOUT MY FIRST EXPERIENCE WITH YOU, RINRI-KUN .....

SOOO... DID KATOU ..... SENPAI... SAY ANYTHING ABOUT ME?

HM?

I MEAN, I FIGURE SHE PROBABLY DIDN'T, BUT DID SHE BAD-MOUTH ME? SAY I WAS AN AWFUL GUY OR...

... THAT I WAS SCUM, STUFF LIKE THAT .....?

.... KATOU?

.....

SO THERE REALLY WAS SOME TRUTH IN IT ALL .....

T-TELL ME!

C'MON, SPILL IT! ALL OF IT!

THAT SENPAI AND HER MALI-CIOUS BS!

EEK!

I CAN'T!

I CAN'T TELL YOU! THERE'S AN AGREEMENT WHEN IT COMES TO GIRL TALK!

AFTER SCHOOL, AV ROOM

OKAY, KATOU-SAN. THIS TIME, GIVE ME A MIFFED LOOK, PLEASE.

WHO'LL HELP ME IF I'M BEING BULLIED, SEXUALLY HARASSED, AND GEEK-HARASSED BY SOME-ONE ELSE THOUGH?

KATOU, IF SENPAI IS BULLYING YOU, I'M HERE TO LEND YOU AN EAR, OKAY?

M-MIFFED?

YEAH. THE FACE YOU MAKE WHEN YOU'RE JUST A LITTLE BIT IRKED.

PUFF UP YOUR CHEEKS A BIT.

AND BE, LIKE, "SAY WHAT!? WHAT-EVER!"

LIKE THAT.

HMPH! (3P)

HUH?

HUH!?

HEY! DID I JUST ASK YOU FOR A FLUS-TERED LOOK? NO!

I HAVE TO GET EVERY ONE OF THESE EXPRES-SIONS TODAY!

HURRY UP AND GIVE ME MIFFED! MIFFED, I SAY!

Y-YES, MA'AM!

Y'KNOW, KATOU-SAN... COULD YOU GET A BIT ANGRIER MAYBE?

I NEVER DID ANY OF THAT!

TOMOYA SAID SOMETHING AWFUL TO YOU, FOR EXAMPLE, OR THE MOMENT WHEN YOU'RE BEING SEXUALLY HARASSED ...

PICTURE IT.....

NOT AT ALL!

NO WAY!

NOT EVEN A LITTLE!

S-SORRY. HOW ABOUT THIS?

THAT'S THE RIGHT "SOMEWHAT APOLOGETIC FACE" FOR THIS SITUATION, BUT...

EEP!

TAKE IT AGAIN FROM THE TOP!

UGH. YOUR EXPRES-SION'S GONE FLAT AGAIN.

I'M SORRY, AKI-KUN. THAT'S REALLY NOT TRUE.

BOTTLE: MORNING TEA

BUT YOU'RE A LADY WITH ENGLISH BLOOD... OR MAYBE NOT.

IT'S TOO MUCH LIKE BLACK TEA. THE TASTE DOESN'T SUIT ME.

A BRAND OTHER THAN LI○TON?

SO, DID YOU BUY MY LEMON TEA?

BUT YES. WHY SO SPECIFIC?

IT'S OKAY, KATOU-SAN.

THIS KIND OF STUFF'S USUALLY THE PRO-DUCER'S TREAT.

HERE'S YOUR CAFÉ AU LAIT.

THANK YOU.

OH, THE MONEY...

.....

TRUE. I AM THIS PROJECT'S PRODUCER-SLASH-DIRECTOR .....

SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING, SENPAI.

YOU WANT-ED IT BLACK, RI—

RIGHT NOW, I CAN ONLY DWELL ON THE HAPPY THOUGHT THAT GAME PRODUCTION IS UNDER-WAY AND DO THE TASKS AT HAND.

WHAT ABOUT FOOD?

SOME-THING I CAN EAT WITHOUT GETTING MY HANDS DIRTY, OKAY?

HOW ABOUT TI○OL CHOCO-LATES?

IT'S A BOX OF TEN.

CHUUU (SLURP)

AAAH. SO BUSY, SO BUSY. (WOODEN)

SASA (OFFER)

DAN (BAM)

DAN

DAN

KATATA (KTAKTAK)

KATATA

KATATA

TATAN

BUT MAYBE IT'S JUST 'COS I'VE NEVER SEEN HER ACTUALLY WORKING BEFORE.....

AMAZING..... I'VE NEVER SEEN SENPAI SO INTENSELY FOCUSED BEFORE.....

COULD THIS BE.....

...A HERALD TO THE BIRTH OF A MASTER-PIECE .....!?

GOKU (GULP)

NO RESPONSE... ALL HER USUAL VENOM AND BULL-CRAPPING.....

...IT'S ALL BEEN SILENCED BY FIERCE CONCEN-TRATION.

HERE'S SOME CANDY TOO..... HAVE IT WHEN YOU GET HUNGRY.

ERR, I JUST LEFT SOME POCOY THERE .....

GOT ANY SWEETS ?

YES?

RINRI-KUN.

USE YOUR RIGHT HAND.

HOW DO YOU EXPECT ME TO EAT WHILE I'M TYPING?

YES, THEY'RE RIGHT THERE.

DIDN'T I JUST SAY, "GIVE ME SOME" ?

YES, GO AHEAD.

GIVE ME SOME, THEN.

KATATA

KATA

TAN

TATA

TATAN

KATATATA

"Geez! You're such a wuss, onii-sama! Chicken! Spineless coward!"
"You can feed yourself, can't you? Ruri, how old are you this year...?"
"That's not the issue! I'm telling you I'm busy, and my hands are occupied...!"

...UMM, ARE YOU REALLY WORKING ON THE PLOT RIGHT NOW?

YOU'RE USELESS AS ALWAYS .....!

TCH!

HUH .....!?

EEP!

GAJI

GAJI

GAJI (CHOMP)

SO YOU MEAN .....

GASA (SHFF)

...THIS .....?

SL (SWF)

"Onii-sama! Another! Another!"
"You really are a spoiled child, aren't you...?"

.....

KATA

KATATA

KATA (KTAK)

AND SHE STOPPED RIGHT AT THE END OF THE CHOCO-LATE!

THOUGHT SHE WAS GONNA BITE MY FINGERS OFF.....!

IS THIS SOME POCOY GAME FROM HELL!?

BAKI (SNAP)

UHH..... SO, ONE MORE, THEN?

?

OH NO. MY DRAWING PENCIL SNAPPED.

GO BUY ME ANOTHER RIGHT NOW, DIRECTOR.

IF YOU'RE GONNA BREAK THEM, DO IT AT THE TIP, NOT THE MIDDLE .....

HUNH? CAN'T DO THAT EITHER? WHAT ABOUT A SWEAT DROP MARK? OR CAN YOU MAKE VERTICAL LINES OVER YOUR FACE?

UM, LIKE I SAID .....

MAKE LIKE YOU'VE GOT BULGING VEIN SYMBOLS AT YOUR TEMPLES.

SO BE IT! NEXT UP, YOUR ANGRY FACE.

NO. ORDINARY PEOPLE CAN'T DO THAT.....

WHAT IS THIS!? CAN'T YOU EVEN STARE DAGGERS, KATOU-SAN!?

I CAN'T GET A SINGLE SD FACE OUTTA YOU! WHAT AM I SUP-POSED TO DO!?

I-I'M SORRY.

I DON'T THINK ANYONE CAN DO THOSE THINGS.

THIS SUCKS!

?

BAN (SLAM)

BAN

HOW ARE THESE TWO MEANT TO GET TOGETHER!? IT DOESN'T MAKE ANYYY SENSE!

AH AH HA HA HA HA HA HA

BAN

BAN

...RUNS DEEP.....

THE DARKNESS WITHIN CREATORS .....

HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO EXPLAIN IT TO YOU, KATOU-SAN!?

SO IT'S FINALLY BEGUN, HUH!?

YUP, SURE HAS.

DARAAA (DROOP)

YUP, SURE IS.

I HAVE TO SAY, IT'S PRETTY TIRING!

ERIRI IS VICIOUS. SENPAI IS FIENDISH.

SO YOU'VE FINALLY SEEN HER VICIOUS TRUE NATURE.

SHE'S THE REAL BOSSY TYPE, ISN'T SHE?

I FEEL LIKE I MET THE REAL SAWA-MURA-SAN FOR THE FIRST TIME TODAY.

THE OPPO-SITE?

IT'S THE OPPO-SITE.

DON'T YOU THINK MAYBE YOU'VE HAD A CRITICAL INFLUENCE ON THE FORMATION OF SAWAMURA-SAN'S PERSONALITY, AKI-KUN?

OF COURSE I AM. LET ME LAY IT OUT FOR YOU. I'M HER NUMBER ONE VICTIM .....

BUT I'M NOT SURE YOU'RE IN A POSITION TO SAY THAT WITH YOUR KNOW-IT-ALL LOOK, AKI-KUN.

HOW DO I PUT IT? HERE AND THERE IN SAWAMURA-SAN'S WORDS, I SEE FLICKERS OF YOUR SHADOW, AKI-KUN .....

NOT AT ALL! NO WAY! NOT EVEN A LITTLE!

.....

A-ANYWAY, WE'RE FINALLY ON THE MOVE, HUH!?

YES. MAKING YOUR GAME.

GACHAN (CLANK)

GUH! (GULP)

TWEAH!

IF IT'S TOO MUCH PRESSURE FOR YOU, WHY DON'T WE GO SOMEWHERE ELSE?

BUT I DID FAIL TO KEEP MY PROMISE LAST WEEK .....

JUST YOU WAIT, ROKU-TENBA MALL!

WHOA. WE JUST STARTED, AND YOU'RE ALREADY PLANNING FOR THE END!?

ONCE IT'S WRAPPED UP, WE SHOULD GO HAVE SOME FUN!

AH-HA-HA! SORRY!

ARE YOU PITYING ME!? HMPH!

BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO OVERDO IT! I'D HAVE JUST AS MUCH FUN AT JOY○OLIS OR SOME-WHERE.

WINDOW SHOPPING! ROMANTIC MOVIES! BRING IT ON, RIGHT?

I DON'T FEEL PRES-SURE! WHO'S SPREAD-ING THOSE LIES ABOUT ME!?

YES! I WIN!

THERE'S NO WAY I COULD DO THAT.

HUH? DID I JUST LOSE SOME-THING?

WE'LL GO TO THE ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT SWEETS PLACE AND ONLY ORDER ONE DRINK! AND GET TWO STRAWS!

WELL, NOW WE JUST HAVE TO GO TO THE ROKU-TENBA MALL!

AREN'T WE TOTALLY ACTING LIKE A COUPLE RIGHT NOW?

HUH?

AFTER SCHOOL, THE NEXT DAY, AV ROOM

.....AND SO...

...THIS IS THE FIRST DRAFT OF THE PLOT.

BASA (PWAP)

IT'S JUST THE BASIC SETTING AND THE STORY AROUND THE MAIN HEROINE RIGHT NOW THOUGH.

THAT WAS FAST!

"Super-Wholesome Gal Game Project of Rinri-kun, by Rinri-kun, for Rinri-kun" (tentative title)

THEY DON'T ONLY LOOK AT GAME TITLES, YOU KNOW. AND SINCE IT'S A DOUJIN GAME, RATING ORGANIZATIONS HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH IT ANYWAY!

"WHOLESOME," SEE? THIS WAY, THOSE -BLEEP- CER○ PEOPLE WON'T MAKE ANY COMPLAINTS.

.....AND WHAT'S WITH THIS WORKING TITLE?

SO... UM...

...I NEED SOME ADVICE.

..... YEAH, FOR SURE.

WELL, ANYWAY, THIS PRETTY MUCH TAKES CARE OF MY WORK QUOTA FOR THE WEEK, RIGHT?

AFTER ALL, ONCE YOU GET OUT INTO THE REAL WORLD, THERE ARE ROTTEN COMPANIES THAT HOLD IT AGAINST YOU WHEN YOU FINISH YOUR WORK BEFORE EVERYONE ELSE BUT DON'T WORK OVERTIME AND KEEP THE SAME HOURS AS YOUR SLOWPOKE COWORKERS. THE HIGHER-UPS SAY, "YOU HAVE COOPERATION ISSUES," AND YOUR EVALUATION DROPS BELOW THAT OF THOSE WORTHLESS PEERS.

OH, I'M NOT SAYING I'M GOING TO LEAVE EARLY TODAY.

YOU'RE A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT QUIT WITH THE HARD-KNOCKS STORY.

I'M NOT SAYING I DISLIKE BEING INVOLVED IN THIS PROJECT.

?

BUT... I GUESS I'D RATHER NOT BE STUCK IN HERE WORKING IN THE FUTURE.....

AND, BY THE WAY, THIS REALLY DOESN'T MATTER AT ALL, BUT...

...I HAVE ONE OTHER TINY REQUEST.

IF YOU COULD, I'D BE REALLY GRATEFUL IF YOU'D JUST FORGET EVERYTHING I SAID AND DID YESTERDAY .....

SO I DID FREAK YOU OUT! AND YOU WERE BOTH-ERED!

KOKU (NOD)

KOKU

YEAH. I MEAN, YOU TALKED IN THAT WEIRDO VOICE AND CACKLED AND DID ALL THAT FIDGETING THAT FREAKED US OUT...

...BUT YOU'RE STILL YOU, UTAHA-SENPAI!

R-REALLY, TOMOYA-KUN?

I WAS NEVER BOTHERED BY IT ANYWAY.

BUT THAT'S NATURAL BEHAVIOR FOR A CREATOR!

SAWA-MURA-SAN .....?

ERIRI .....?

IF A LITTLE BIT OF THAT SPILLS OUT OF YOUR MOUTH, THERE'S NOTHING UNUSUAL ABOUT THAT!

WHEN YOU CREATE THINGS IN YOUR HEAD...

...YOU CUT YOURSELF OFF FROM THE WORLD AND BECOME ABSORBED IN IMPOSSIBLE FANTASIES, AND YOUR MIND IS CONSUMED.

I AM A CREATOR AFTER ALL.

I AM A GOD.

TH...

.....THAT'S TRUE, ISN'T IT?

GOO GRUMBLE

S-SENPAI?

I CAN'T HELP IT IF I'M ARROGANT. AND IF THE WORLD DOESN'T GO THE WAY I WANT IT TO, IT'S ONLY NATURAL THAT I SHOULD BE INCENSED.

DO ALL CREATORS HAVE THESE CLOSETED JUNIOR HIGH DELUSIONS?

AN ARTIST WITH COLORS, A WRITER WITH WORDS. 'COS THOSE ARE THE ONLY WEAPONS WE HAVE IN OUR ARSENAL.

SO WE RULE OTHERS, AND WE CONQUER THE WORLD.

SOMETIMES, I THINK IT'S THE WORLD THAT'S WEIRD.

GOO (ROAR)

...BUT I DON'T FEEL ABNORMAL WHEN I'M WRITING A STORY.

THAT IS INDEED TRUE. WE MAY BE FAR FROM WHAT THE WORLD THINKS IS NORMAL...

THEY'RE EVEN SUFFERING FROM AN ACUTE PERSE-CUTION COMPLEX!

AND YET THE WORLD'S FULL OF PEOPLE WHO KNOW NOTHING OF HARDSHIP, AND JUST NITPICK YOUR WORK, AND ACT LIKE THEY'RE SO MUCH BETTER THAN YOU.....!

I KNOW, RIGHT!?

GOOO

IN MY MIND, I'VE WORKED OUT SEVERAL WAYS OF DOING IT.

I'D LOVE TO CRUSH THEM..... THOSE BRAINLESS FOOLS.

I'VE THOUGHT UP LOTS OF WAYS TO BACK THEM INTO A CORNER.

WELL, MAINLY SOCIAL.

SAWAMURA-SAN, ARE YOU MORE INTERESTED IN PHYSICAL OBLITER-ATION OR SOCIAL?

STOP! BOTH OF YOU, STOP ALREADY!

MY INNER SUPER-HACKER IS VERY HIGH-PER-FORMANCE, SEE? DO YOU WANT TO KNOW THE SPECS ?

HOW MUCH POWER DO YOU HAVE TO MANIPULATE THINGS ON THE INTERNET, I WONDER?

GO

GO (RUMBLE)

GO

GO

PURU (QUIVER)

PURU

PURU

WHY DO THESE TWO ONLY GET ALONG WHEN THEY GET CRAZY LIKE THIS?

IS THAT WHAT THE BRAINS OF CREATIVE TYPES ARE LIKE .....?

IT'S AN INCOM-PATIBLE WORLD .....

HUH, KATOU .....?

GO

GO

GO

GO

CAN WE REALLY SUCCEED LIKE THIS .....?

END

How to Raise a Boring Girlfriend

How to Raise a Boring Girlfriend

CHAPTER
10

'KAYYY!

KERO (BLANK)

BAN (WHAM)

TAKE A BREAK!

THIS IS TOTALLY POINTLESS! IT'S NOT WORKING AT ALL!

HEY, SAWAMURA-SAN? IS MY PERSONALITY REALLY THAT WEAK?

OH, I BROUGHT SOME SWISS ROLLS. WANT TO SHARE? THEY'RE JUST FROM THE CONVENIENCE STORE THOUGH.

SORRY, SAWA-MURA-SAN...

LISTEN, KATOU-SAN. DON'T ANSWER SO CHEERFULLY AT A TIME LIKE THIS .....

ARE YOU SURE, EVEN I'LL LISTEN-HAVE ING TO SOME. M—

GYSHI (CREAK)

IN YOUR CASE, YOUR EXPRESSION ISN'T THAT INERT, SO YOU'RE NO MATCH FOR THE AYA○AMI-TYPE EITHER.

GATA (TREMBLE.

BIKU (JOLT)

LACK OF EXPRESSION CAN DEFINE A CHARACTER AS UNEMOTIONAL.

AND IT'S BECAUSE OF MY LACK OF EXPRESSION?

SUPA (BLUNT)

IT IS.

WERE YOU DELIBERATELY TRYING TO PROVOKE ME TO GET AN EMOTIONAL REACTION?

HERE YOU GO.

HUH?

YOUR FORK, SAWAMURA-SAN.

...YOU DIDN'T GET ANGRY AND CHANGE YOUR EXPRESSION.

I'M SORRY I CAN'T BE OF HELP.

I'VE NEVER DEALT WITH SUCH AN UNUSABLE PERSONALITY.

NNFF .....

THESE TWO KIND OF SEEM TO BE GETTING ALONG .....?

BUT NONE OF THEM WORK, SO WHAT'S THE POINT?

OH, I'D LIKE SOME MILK IN IT.

YOU REALLY DO TRY LOTS OF DIFFERENT METHODS, DON'T YOU, SAWAMURA-SAN!?

BLACK COFFEE OKAY?

AMAZING THAT SHE CAN SLEEP WITH THOSE TWO CHATTING AWAY...

SHE MUST'VE BEEN UP ALL NIGHT.

"Super-Wholesome Gal Game Proj
of Rinri-kun, by Rinri-kun, for Rinri
(tentative title)

WELL, SHE DID DELIVER THE PLOT REALLY QUICKLY.

...MAYBE I SAW THIS SCENE LAST YEAR TOO...

COME TO THINK OF IT.....

BUT THEN SHE'D FORGET ABOUT ME AND FALL ASLEEP, AND IT WASN'T JUST ONCE OR TWICE .....

BRAIN-STORMING SESSIONS, FAN GET-TOGETHERS, AND REVIEW MEETINGS .....

...SHE'D COME UP WITH ALL KINDS OF EXCUSES TO SEE ME...

BACK THEN, SHE STAYED UP A BUNCH OF NIGHTS THE DAY BEFORE TOO.....

YEAH. A YEAR AGO...

...UTAHA-SENPAI AND I MET UP A LOT.

WE'D MEET, BUT.....

FUWA (BURST)

I'M GOING TO READ IT NOW... UTAHA-SENPAI.

FUUUUU (SIGH)

ONE DAY, SEIJI AND MEGURI MEET UP BY CHANCE ON THE WAY HOME.

ON PARTING, MEGURI WHIS-PERS.

"GOOD NIGHT, ONII-SAMA."

SEIJI TALKS ABOUT HOW THEY MET.

BUT MEGURI CALLS IT A "RE-UNION."

BUT MEGURI BEGINS TO CHANGE BIT BY BIT AT THE SAME TIME.

THEN, SEVERAL WEEKS LATER, THE TWO OF THEM CONFIRM THEIR FEELINGS FOR EACH OTHER AND BECOME A COUPLE.

...AS IF THERE IS SOMEONE ELSE INSIDE OF HER.....

AND THEN MEGURI REMEMBERS HER PAST LOVE AND THE INCIDENT INVOLVING HER FAMILY—

...AND HAS MEMORIES OF AN ERA FROM BEFORE SHE WAS BORN...

SHE BECOMES ODDLY FIXATED WITH SEIJI.

SHE OCCA-SIONALLY DISPLAYS UNCON-SCIOUS FEAR...

EACH TIME SHE RECALLS THE PAST, MYSTERIOUS THINGS BEGIN TO HAPPEN AROUND HER.

AFTER LOOKING DEATH IN THE FACE NUMEROUS TIMES, THE TWO RESOLVE TO FIGHT THE ENEMY IN ORDER TO PROTECT EACH OTHER.

THAT THERE'S A MASTER-MIND WHO WIPED OUT HER FAMILY, AND HE'S STILL IN THIS CITY...

...AND THAT SHE'S BEEN BOUND TO THIS CITY TO PREVENT THAT FACT FROM LEAKING INTO THE OUTSIDE WORLD.

THEN, SEIJI TIME TRAVELS BACK TO HIS OWN PAST AND INTERFERES WITH THE ACTIONS OF SOUMA AND OVERWRITES HIS PAST MEMORIES.

MEGURI RECALLS HER MEMORIES, AND SHE GETS CLOSER TO THE TRUTH BEHIND THE INCIDENT.

AFTER THE BATTLE, WITH DANGER BEHIND THEM, SEIJI AND MEGURI— NO, SOUMA AND MEGURI— ARE REUNITED SEVENTY YEARS LATER.

WE'LL BE TOGETHER FOREVER, WON'T WE, ONII-CHAN?

THIS IS..... A VERY BOLD TAKE.

"TAKE"? IT'S ALMOST ALL ENTIRELY ORIGINAL!

YES.

THE ORIGINAL PROPOSAL WAS ONLY, "KATOU-SAN IS THE MAIN HEROINE," SO WHAT COULD I DO?

I APOLO-GIZE. I'M SORRY. PLEASE FORGIVE ME.

I THOUGHT UTAKO KASUMI COULD ONLY WRITE THAT SAPPY ROMANCE STUFF.

I WONDER IF IT'S HEALTHY TO HAVE SUCH FIXED IDEAS, ERI KASHI-WAGI-SENSEI?

WAIT, DOES THAT MEAN YOU READ *METRO-NOME IN LOVE* TOO?

HAHN? I NEVER READ IT! I'M JUST TALKING ABOUT MY PRECON-CEPTIONS!

WELL, THAT'S JUST THE WORST, COMING FROM THE AUDI-ENCE OR A CREATOR ...

THOUGH, I HAD SIMILAR EXPEC-TATIONS TOO.....

BUT SHE'S CERTAINLY TAKEN A PATH I COULDN'T HAVE IMAGINED FROM THE TONE OF HER PREVIOUS WORK.....

WHAT DO YOU THINK, KATOU? HAVE ANY OPINIONS?

HUH? UMM .....

I THOUGHT THE DETAILS WERE VERY ELABO-RATE.

..... RIGHT.

AGH..... WHAT WAS I THINKING, ASKING HER .....!?

THIS KIND OF EPIC PLOT WOULD BE CRITICIZED IN THE INDUSTRY, BUT I THINK IT WILL MAKE WAVES AS A DOUJIN WORK.

MARIO-TAAAAAN!

YOU CAN'T UNDER-ESTIMATE THE RAGE OF OTAKU WHEN A HEROINE WHO GETS THEM ALL HOT UNDER THE COLLAR IS SUDDENLY "BUTCH-ERED.

SOURCE: A TIME I GOT REALLY ANGRY

YOU'RE RIGHT. THAT'S DEFINITELY A THING.

SO I THOUGHT WE MIGHT AIM FOR THAT THIS TIME.

STORIES THAT DEVIATE FROM THEIR GENRE ARE ABSOLUTELY FORBIDDEN IN THE INDUSTRY LATELY.

WHAT DO YOU THINK, RINRI-KUN?

IT'S PRETTY INTER-ESTING

H-HMM...

LIAR!

NO, IT'S THE TRUTH.

INDEED, IN A CERTAIN MASTER-PIECE, WHICH FOUNDED A WHOLE ERA, THERE WERE DEFINITELY EPIC SURPRISE ELEMENTS.

BUT THERE'S NOTHING FORBIDDEN WHEN IT COMES TO DOUJIN WORKS 'COS THE INTERESTS OF THE CREATOR ARE RECOG-NIZED FROM THE GET-GO.

HOW VERY CUNNING .....

YES, IT'S AS CUNNING AS IT SHOULD BE.

SEE, THE MAIN HEROINE WAS HIS KID SISTER IN A PREVIOUS LIFE AND IT'S YANDERE NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOK AT IT

...TO BEGIN WITH, UTAKO KASUMI IS IN CHARGE OF THE SCENARIO, AND I'M A MAJOR FAN, SO IT'S PRACTICALLY A GIVEN I'LL THINK IT'S A MASTER-WORK.

BUT MORE THAN THAT .....

IT CERTAINLY COULD WORK. THE DETAILS AND DEVEL-OPMENTS ARE VERY INTRICATE, SO WE'LL NEED QUITE A BIT OF SKILL TO PULL IT OFF, BUT...

CALLING HIM "ONII-CHAN," GETTING HIM TO SPOIL HER LIKE CRAZY, TRYING TO COMMIT INCEST WITH HIM... IT'S ALL HITTING THE MARK!

IS KATOU-SAN GONNA BE THE MODEL FOR BOTH MEGURI AND RURI?

WELL, THAT'S WHAT I INTENDED.

HUH? JUST ME?

WHAT'S MORE, SHE ADDED LOTS MORE CHARACTERS AND BROADENED THE SCOPE ...

KATOU... TRY SAYING "ONII-CHAN," JUST TO SEE. OR EVEN "ONII-SAMA," OKAY?

HUH? WHAT DO YOU MEAN ...?

HURRY UP! DO IT WITH UPTURNED EYES AND A BREATHY, SWEET TONE OF VOICE!

BUT I'VE ONLY GOT A BIG SISTER, SO I DON'T KNOW HOW!

THEN IMAGINE THAT I'M YOUR COUSIN, KEIICHI-KUN, AND—

GAH! NO, DON'T DO THAT!

BUT...

SO WE'RE GOING WITH THIS AS THE FINAL VERSION?

THAT'S UTAHA-SENPAI FOR YOU. SHE TURNED IN A PRO JOB, SUPERIOR AND ON THE MARK.

BUT THIS IS GOOD... THIS IS REALLY GOOD... MY CONCEPT WAS TO DRAW OUT ALL THE CHARMS OF MEGUMI KATOU, AND THIS IS EXACTLY IN LINE WITH THAT.

HEH! HEH! HEH! HEH! HEH! HEH! HEH!

WAIT FOR MY FINAL DECISION.
.....
SORRY. I NEED A BIT MORE TIME.

.....

RINRI-KUN?

I CAN'T GIVE IT THE GREEN LIGHT YET .....

BUT WHAT?

WELL, ERR...

NO, IT'S GREAT. IT'S PERFECT, BUT... ... BUT .....

HOW COME?

SOMETHING'S STICKING.....

"Super-Wholesome Gal Game Project of Rinri-kun, by Rinri-kun, for Rinri-kun" (tentative title)

ROMANCE, REINCARNATION, TIME TRAVEL..... IT'S NOT THOSE EASY-TO-GRASP HOOKS. IT'S SOMETHING MORE FUNDAMENTAL.....

IT'S FINE. SEE YOU.

PATAN (SHUT)

I'M SORRY, SENPAI ...

GARA (SLIDE)

RA RA RA RA

IF THERE'S ANYTHING YOU WANT ME TO FIX, TELL ME. I WANT TO GET IT ALL DONE OVER THE WEEK-END.

..... WELL, WE'LL PUT ASIDE THE DECI-SION FOR TODAY, THEN.

SORRY!

WED

THURS

FRI

SIGN: AV ROOM

視聴覚室

JUST HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING TO MAKE US WAIT.....!?

WORSE THAN DOING NOTHING, YOU HOLD US BACK! ALL YOU DO IS DRAG DOWN THE MOTIVATION OF YOUR CREATORS! YOU'RE THE STEREOTYPICAL "ALL HARM, NO GOOD" DIRECTOR!

GAKUN (WHUMP)

URGH!

.....FOR-GIVE ME.

GET A GRIP, TOMO-YA!

DO YOU REALLY THINK YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REJECT IT IN THE FIRST PLACE?

.....

JUST FORGET IT. IF YOU FIND ANYTHING WRONG LATER, WE CAN JUST REVISE IT THEN.

KATA KATA KATA KATA KATA KATA KATA KATA

AREN'T YOU JUST BEING STUB-BORN?

YOU REJECTED IT ONCE ALREADY, BUT NOW YOU CAN'T FIND ANYTHING WRONG WITH IT, AND YOU'RE IN TOO DEEP TO TURN BACK. AM I RIGHT?

SORRY. I CAN'T DO IT.

BUT.....

SHE'S TRYING TO PREVAIL UPON ME IN PLACE OF UTAHA-SENPAI.....

...TO SMOOTH THIS SITUATION OVER.....

TOMO-YA.....

CHIRI (GLANCE)

THERE'S NO MISTAKE. I SPENT THREE DAYS GOING THE WHOLE WAY THROUGH IT.

IF WE DON'T ADJUST THE STORY'S DIRECTION NOW, WE'LL BE IN BIG TROUBLE LATER.

IT'S JUST A LITTLE OFF FROM WHAT I VISUAL-IZED IN MY HEAD.

IT'S NOT JUST "A FEEL-ING."

BUT IF WE GO AHEAD LIKE THIS..... I WON'T BE ABLE TO ENJOY IT. THAT MUCH I KNOW.

MY INABILITY TO NAME "WHAT'S OFF" IN CONCRETE TERMS IS ENTIRELY DUE TO MY OWN LACK OF ABILITY .....

IF WE PROCEED AS-IS, IT WON'T BE MY GAME ANYMORE.

THEN MAKE IT YOURSELF!

ERIRI, THAT'S .....

IF YOU SAY THAT, THEN IT'S ALL OVER, SAWAMURA-SAN.

WHA—?

JUST AS THERE ARE THINGS THAT A DIRECTOR CANNOT DO TO A CREATOR...

...THERE ARE ALSO THINGS THAT A CREATOR CANNOT SAY TO A DIRECTOR.

THAT WAS ONE OF THEM.

SEN-PAI...

EVEN THOUGH YOU WANT TO SAY IT MORE THAN ANYONE.....

IT WAS PROBABLY HER PRIDE .....

BUT SHE DIDN'T HELP ME ANY EITHER.

ERIRI JUST TOUCHED SOME PART OF HER THAT SHE CAN'T CONCEDE .....

SUTA (STRIDE)

SUTA

KATAN (CLACK)

NOT ME RIGHT NOW AT LEAST.

WH-WHY, YOU... JUST WHO THE HELL WAS I DEFEND-ING!?

HUH ...?

YOU'RE DOING IT AGAIN, RINRI-KUN.....

OH...

I'M LEAVING ...

BATAN (SLAM)

YOU'RE NOT MAKING A DECISION .....

.....

KARA (RATTLE)
KARA
KARA

GAN (WHAM)
THE HELL—!?

AKI-KUN.

...YEP.
...THAT'S IT.
...THAT'S IT

.....OH.
WHAT THE—? NOW KATOU'S WORRIED ABOUT ME TOO?
MORE THAN SHE'S EVER BEEN, IN FACT.

IF YOU'RE STILL THINKING IT OVER, WHY NOT DO IT AT THE USUAL RESTAU-RANT?

THE ONLY KEY TO FIXING THIS ANGUISH LIES HERE.
SAY, KATOU...

WANNA GO ON A DATE?

THE KEY..... LIES IN THE MAIN HEROINE I'VE FORCIBLY CREATED.

...HUH?

GAYA (CHATTER)

GAYA

GAYA

GAYA

JIRI

JIRI

JIRI (GLARE)

あ あ あ あ あ

GUTAAAAAA (LIMP)

.....I'M TRULY SORRY. FORGIVE ME.

JIIWA

JIIWA (CRIP)

ONLY FIFTEEN MINUTES IN, AND LOOK AT ME.....

DATE AT THE ROKU-TENBA MALL...

JIIWA

NO, NO...

NO, I'M THE ONE WHO'S SORRY.

WELL, THIS IS PRETTY INCREDIBLE FOR HAVING ONLY BEEN OPEN A MONTH .....

MAYBE WE SHOULD HAVE WAITED A WHILE LONGER BEFORE COMING HERE.

IT'S BUSIER THAN I EXPECT-ED.....

CRAP! AND I THOUGHT I'D SHOW HER HOW MY REAL-WORLD SKILLS ARE BETTER THAN YOU'D THINK FOR A CREEPY OTAKU LIKE MEEE.....!

ARE YOU REALLY SURE? I'D BE TOTALLY OKAY WITH WANDERING AROUND AKIHABARA TOO, YOU KNOW?

!

YEAH, IT'S LIKE BEING IN A WAR!

R-REALLY?

YES, BUT IT'S LIKE THIS AT BARGAIN SALES TOO.

KATOU..... ARE YOU OKAY WITH THIS? LOOK AT THE CHAOS. IT'S LIKE A SWARM OF PEOPLE.

BUT THE GENERAL POPULATION HERE HAVE SUCH BAD MANNERS.....

RRGH! MY HEAD ...!

NOW, THAT'S A REAL WAR! WITH TRULY HARDENED SOLDIERS!

AND ORDERLY COMBAT!

ZURAAAAAA (LONG)

THANK YOU!

KIRI (GLINT)

YES, GO AHEAD.

MAY I LOOK INSIDE THIS?

18

SEXUAL ASSAULT

END OF LINE A-08

THANKS!

I'LL HOLD IIIT!

NO! THIS IS NO WAR!

THIS IS NOTHING COMPARED TO "THAT EVENT"!

UNIFORM: HOME SELF-DEFENSE FORCES

LOOK AT ME..... THE ROKU-TENBA MALL DID THIS TO ME...

TRULY, THIS IS MY BAP-TISMAL AWAY GAME!

PATA

PATA (FLAP)

WE REALLY SHOULD GO, HUH?

AKI-KUN! SNAP OUT OF IT! I-I'LL TAKE YOU TO THE NURSE'S STATION!

THIS IS NOT THE END OF THE LINE..... PLEASE EXIT AND GO UP THE SLOPE...

A-AKI-KUN?

YOU THERE..... NO RUN-NING..... PLEASE PROCEED SLOWLY!

DON'T DO THAT... I WON'T BE ABLE TO GO BUY ALL THE BOOKS .....

NO, I'M NOT GOING.

SORRY, BUT LET ME JUST REST ANOTHER THIRTY MINUTES

I PROMISE. I SWEAR I'LL BE USEFUL TO YOU THEN.

THAT'S NOT IT...

THERE'S NO POINT IN STAYING IF YOU CAN'T ENJOY IT, RIGHT?

NO, I'M OKAY, MAYBE .....

I KNOW A WAY I CAN HAVE FUN IN THIS BATTLE TOO.

むくっ MUKU (SIT)

OH YEAH ?

WHAT ERIRI SAID.

IN AN AWAY GAME, JUST SMILE AND AIM FOR A DRAW.

BUT I COULDN'T OBEDIENTLY GO ALONG WITH THAT.

BEFORE WE HEAD OUT, LET'S GO OVER ALL THE PLACES YOU WANT TO CHECK OUT, OKAY?

WELL, BUT...

TELL ME THE NAMES OF EVERY SHOP.

...'COS I ALWAYS WANNA WIN THE WAY I ALWAYS AM.

HEY, KA-TOU.

BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO SO FAR.....

IT'S FINE. TELL ME.

YOU CAN JUST POINT THEM ALL OUT ON THIS FLOOR MAP.

TIME LIMIT is...
AN OTAKU'S HOME GAME TACTICS ARE CLEARLY NOT OUT OF PLACE IN THE REAL WORLD!
THEY'RE RULES AND METHODS THAT CAN BE APPLIED HERE OR ANYWHERE, DEPENDING ON HOW THEY'RE USED!
AND I HAVE HONED MYSELF TO BE ABLE TO MAKE OPTIMAL USE OF THEM!
PLAN A B C D..
I'LL BE FINE AS LONG AS I HAVE THIS COMIKET MAP— I MEAN, MALL MAP— I'M INVINCIBLE!
BUT THERE ARE A LOT OF THEM .....
AND I DIDN'T EXPECT IT TO BE SO CROWDED.
LULU BIANCA AND...
HERE.
MAGIC
KYU (SQUEAK)
KYU
OKAY.
HERE, RIGHT?
YEP...
IT'S FINE. JUST FIND THEM ALL FOR NOW.
NOW IT'S TIME TO WIN THIS AWAY GAME...
IT'LL BE AN UPSET!

TIME TO GO, TOMOYA AKI.....THE CHOSEN ONE, THE EVENT SOLDIER!

KATOU, GIMME YOUR HAND... C'MON!

GASHI (GRAB)

AH ...!

KUH!

WOW! WHAT A HORDE!

YES. I CAN MELT INTO AN AWAY GAME SITUATION WHILE STILL SHOWING MY OWN COLORS.

GRAAARGH!

POWER WALK ALL THE WAY!

♪ MENTAL BACKGROUND MUSIC: "TSUBASA WO KUDASAI" (HAYASHIBARA VERSION)

PAN

PAN (JUMP)

YUP.

LOOKS LIKE WE'VE BASICALLY COVERED IT ALL.

...CAN WE GO TO ONE MORE SHOP?

UMM..... I'M SORRY, BUT...

SHALL WE RETURN TO THE CENTRAL COURT?

I'M SO HUN-GRY!

OH! WAIT A SEC.

UH... KATOU .....

.....

WOW! THEY'VE GOT LOTS OF DIFFERENT TYPES HERE, HUH!?

SO WHY.....

...ARE WE IN THIS GLASSES STORE .....?

DO YOU HAVE BAD EYE-SIGHT?

NO. BOTH MY EYES ARE 20/20.

THAT'S TOO GOOD!

HOW ABOUT THESE?

I THINK THEY'D SUIT YOU QUITE WELL, AKI-KUN.

THE LENSES WOULD BE TOO EXPENSIVE, OF COURSE... BUT I'LL BUY YOU THESE FRAMES.

WHAT .....?

HUH?

THEY'RE THANKS FOR HANGING OUT WITH ME TODAY.

WHAT ARE YOU .....?

SU (SWIP)

THANK YOU, AKI-KUN!

(STARE)

HUNH?

HMMM...

WHAT KIND OF EVENT IS THIS?

IT'S SOME-HOW... SOME-HOW...

WHAT THE...?

OH. ARE THIN FRAMES NO GOOD?

YOU'D PREFER SOMETHING LIKE THE ONES YOU'RE WEARING NOW?

I WAS A PAIN IN THE NECK THIS MORNING, REMEMBER?

AND ALL I DID THIS AFTERNOON WAS LEAD YOU AROUND. I DIDN'T SHOP WITH YOU AT ALL, YOU KNOW?

HUH?

THEN HOW ABOUT A HAT?

...SO?

SO... THERE'S A HAT SHOP OVER THERE

THIS ISN'T GOOD. I HAVE TO DEFUSE THE SITUATION I HAVE TO COOL HER OFF...

I HAVE TO WEASEL AROUND IT AND SPOIL HER KINDNESS.

'COS IF I DON'T, THEN I.....

BAKU

BAKU

BAKU (CRUNCH)

MM! THIS IS GOOD TOO!

MUSHA (MUNCH)

MUSHA

MUSHA

YOU WANT A BITE, KATOU?

SAY "AAH"!

NO THANKS.

OH, OKAY.

YEP. THAT BITTER-SWEET ATMO-SPHERE FROM BEFORE HAS BEEN COMPLETELY SWEPT AWAY.

MUSHA

MUSHA

MOSTLY THANKS TO ME.

NEVER UNDER-ESTIMATE AN OTAKU'S MATERIAL DESIRE!

I WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ABLE TO COVER HALF THAT GROUND

AKI-KUN, YOU WERE AMAZ-ING!

TSUN (POKE)

EVEN THOUGH YOU DIDN'T BUY A SINGLE THING FOR YOURSELF?

TODAY WAS FUN THOUGH, HUH?

YEAH! MORE THAN I EXPECTED!

THAT KIND OF THINKING'S CONNECTED TO YOUR PROMOTING STUFF, RIGHT?

YES, MY PROMO WORK IS BASED FIRSTLY UPON PURE KINDHEARTEDNESS.

THE MOMENT A PERSON ACQUIRES SOMETHING THEY REALLY WANT...

...THEY EXPERIENCE A HAPPINESS THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO REPLACE.

SOMETIMES I WANT TO THANK YOU, AND SOMETIMES YOU'RE SUPER-IRRITATING.

DON'T SAY "SUPER." IT'S SO ORDINARY.

AH-HA-HA! SAY WHAT!?

BEING ORDINARY IS FUN.

YES, THIS IS FUN.

ORDINARY GOING OUT, ORDINARY MESS-UPS, ORDINARY RECOVERIES..... ORDINARY WALKING AROUND TOGETHER...

OUR USUAL LEVEL OF TENSION IS PRETTY FUN TOO.

...BUT A CONVER-SATION LIKE THIS, WITHOUT ANY HINT OF "DESTINY," CAN BE THIS FUN TOO.

OTAKUS AND CIVILIANS DON'T USUALLY HANG OUT...

HAVING A FUN TIME JUST COMMUNI-CATING.

...ORDINARY EATING SWEETS, ORDINARY CONVERSA-TIONS...

KATOU AS SHE IS, ME AS I AM.

HM?

HEY, KATOU ...

BUT THAT'S EXACTLY WHY.....

...THERE'S SOMETHING I HAVE TO TELL HER.

SORRY, BUT...

...I CAN'T SEE YOU HOME.

THERE'S SOMEWHERE I HAVE TO GO RIGHT NOW.

...I HAVE A NEW GOAL, AND THIS IS NO TIME TO STAND STILL.....

RIGHT NOW...

TO BE CONTINUED

How to Raise a Boring Girlfriend

How to Raise a Boring Girlfriend

THE "MEGU-TAN ETC. ETC." APPEARANCE FIRST SECTION ☆

PART 2

SIGN AN EXCLUSIVE CONTRACT WITH ME AND BE MY MAIN HEROINE!

MEGUMI, THE MAIN HEROINE (FOR REAL)?

Main-heroine Megumi Mazika?

めぐみ☆マジか？

MEGUMI MAZIKA?

TRANSLATION NOTES

PAGE 21
Marusei butter sand is a famous Japanese sweet treat from Hokkaido's Rokkatei confectionery consisting of buttercream and dried raisins sandwiched between two cookies. Butter sand is short for "butter sandwiches." Marusei is the name of the company that makes the butter used in the filling.

PAGE 27
Aki is reading ***Full Metal Panic! Σ***, one of the manga adaptations published by Kadokawa Shoten of Shouji Gatou's *Full Metal Panic!* series of light novels.

PAGE 29
"The scroll of when he woke up and the date had rolled over!?" is a reference to the manga and anime series *Ninja Hattori-kun* by Motoo Abiko, one half of the creator duo Fujiko Fujio (best known for the immensely popular manga and anime series, *Doraemon*). Installments of the *Ninja Hattori-kun* anime often have *~no maki* (literally "the scroll of") at the end of their titles.

PAGE 38, 131
The **canned coffee** here is a play on Boss Black Coffee, a common drink found in Japanese vending machines.

PAGE 43
Moe is a word that describes feelings of attraction or affection, usually toward anime, manga, or video game characters. It is also used to describe a genre of manga, anime, and games specifically intended to inspire such feelings.

COMMON HONORIFICS
no honorific: Indicates familiarity or closeness; if used without permission or reason, addressing someone in this manner would constitute an insult.
-san: The Japanese equivalent of Mr./Mrs./Miss. If a situation calls for politeness, this is the fail-safe honorific.
-sama: Conveys great respect; may also indicate that the social status of the speaker is lower than that of the addressee.
-kun: Used most often when referring to boys, this indicates affection or familiarity. Occasionally used by older men among their peers, but it may also be used by anyone referring to a person of lower standing.
-chan (also *-tan*): An affectionate honorific indicating familiarity used mostly in reference to girls; also used in reference to cute persons or animals of either gender.
-senpai: An honorific used to address upperclassmen or more experienced coworkers.
-sensei: A respectful honorific for teachers, artists, or high-level professionals.

PAGE 10
A **raising sim** is a video game where the player's choices and/or playing time affect the characters, creatures, and environments of the game, causing them to develop on their own with player interaction.

PAGE 13
The **consecutive holidays** they're talking about are the four national holidays that fall within a seven-day period around late April/early May. This is known as Golden Week in Japan.

TRANSLATION NOTES

PAGE 42
In this scene, proposal Katou asking Aki (aka. the game's protagonist) to get **"ready to call me 'Megumi'"** is an indication of intimacy to come. In Japanese culture, first names are typically only used between people who are very close.

PAGE 47
In the Japanese edition, the word used for **main dish** is *okazu*, which actually means "side dish" in common Japanese parlance but is also a slang term for "jerk-off fodder."

PAGE 65
Real-world beast is a pun on the slang term *riajuu*, a derogatory word for a person who has a real-world life (as opposed to one spent entirely in the 2-D worlds of video games and comics). *Juu* by itself can also mean "beast."

PAGE 67
Haneda is Tokyo's second major airport after Narita.

PAGE 73
Date De Hustle, the series that the girls at the café are talking about, is a parody of the sci-fi harem light novel series *Date A Live* by Koushi Tachibana, which has been adapted into anime, manga, and video games. **Orizuru (literally "folded crane") is a play on the name of one of the protagonist's love interests, Origami Tobiichi, while the character hanging from the girl's bag is Kotori Itsuka, the protagonist's foster sister.**

PAGE 76
A **"soy sauce face"** is a face that fits the stereotypical standards of Asian beauty and has delicate features, narrow eyes, and light skin.

PAGE 76
"You say it like he's your boyfriend!" is a misunderstanding caused by wordplay. In the Japanese edition, Katou uses the word *kare* to refer to Keiichi. *Kare* can mean both "he" and "boyfriend."

PAGE 76
A **flag** is some aspect of video game play that indicates the direction in which the game is going to go (for example, a successful final boss battle is a flag for the good ending cutscene). An *onii-chan* ("big brother type") flag **is bad news for anyone romancing Katou in a dating sim since she's probably already fallen for her *onii-chan*.**

PAGE 77
Obon is a Buddhist festival lasting three days to celebrate the spirits of one's ancestors, typically falling in July.

PAGE 84
Stress fever in Japanese is *chienetsu*, a developmental fever that brings with it an intellectual or psycho-developmental growth spurt or a fever kids get after studying or thinking hard.

TRANSLATION NOTES

daggers," is a kind of suspicious, half-lidded look.

PAGE 116
SD stands for "super-deformed," a style of drawing characters in a miniature, cute, round, and exaggerated way. Also referred to as *chibi*.

PAGE 119
Joy●olis is an indoor amusement park in Odaiba, Tokyo.

PAGE 121
CER●stands for CERO, Japan's Computer Entertainment Rating Organization.

PAGE 131
Aya●ami is a reference to the character Rei Ayanami from the anime classic, *Neon Genesis Evangelion*.

PAGE 138
The character shown here is Rena Ryugu from *Higurashi no Naku Koro ni* **by Ryukishi07, which originated as a visual novel franchise before it was adapted into anime and manga.**

PAGE 138
Yandere is a character archetype who is kind but suddenly becomes violent or is violent but shows affection for the protagonist.

PAGE 150
Home Self-Defense Forces is a play on the collective military organization known as the Japan Self-Defense Forces and the notion that the

PAGE 84
Doujin is the colloquial abbreviation of *doujinshi*, self-published art, comics, video games, or novels produced (usually) by amateurs and derivative of existing properties.

PAGE 86
Tsundere is a compound term derived from the words *tsuntsun* ("disdainful, prickly") and *deredere* ("affectionate, fawning") that refers to a person who is initially abrasive or combative but softens over time or reveals a warm inner nature.

PAGE 109
Morning Tea is a play on Kirin's Afternoon Tea line, which has a Lemon Tea flavor.

PAGE 110
The beverage here is a play on Glico's Café au Lait, and the numbers at the bottom are typically 50/50 and represent the milk to coffee ratio.

PAGE 110
Ti●ol White Cookies are squares of white chocolate with chocolate cookie crumble from the Tirol chocolate company.

PAGE 113
Poppy is a play on Glico's popular Pocky chocolate and cookie snack.

PAGE 115
Jitome, **the Japanese word for "staring**

attendees of comic conventions are shut-ins.

PAGE 152
Comiket, a portmanteau of Comic Market, is the world's largest *doujinshi* fair. Founded in 1975, it is now held twice a year (August and December) in Tokyo and draws crowds exceeding 500,000 heads per show.

PAGE 154
Hayashibara is a reference to Japanese pop star Megumi Hayashibara. The song shown here is "Please Give Me Wings."

PAGE 159
While exchange rates fluctuate daily, a convenient conversion estimation is about ¥100 to $1 US. So **¥1,800** would be around $18.

PAGE 165
The **bonus comic** is a play on the popular dark magical girl anime series *Madoka★Magica*, with Katou in the Madoka role and Aki standing in for Kyuubey. The title at the bottom is also drawn in the style of the *Madoka★Magica* manga logo.

TRANSLATION NOTES

How to Raise a Boring Girlfriend

HOW TO RAISE A BORING GIRLFRIEND ❷

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